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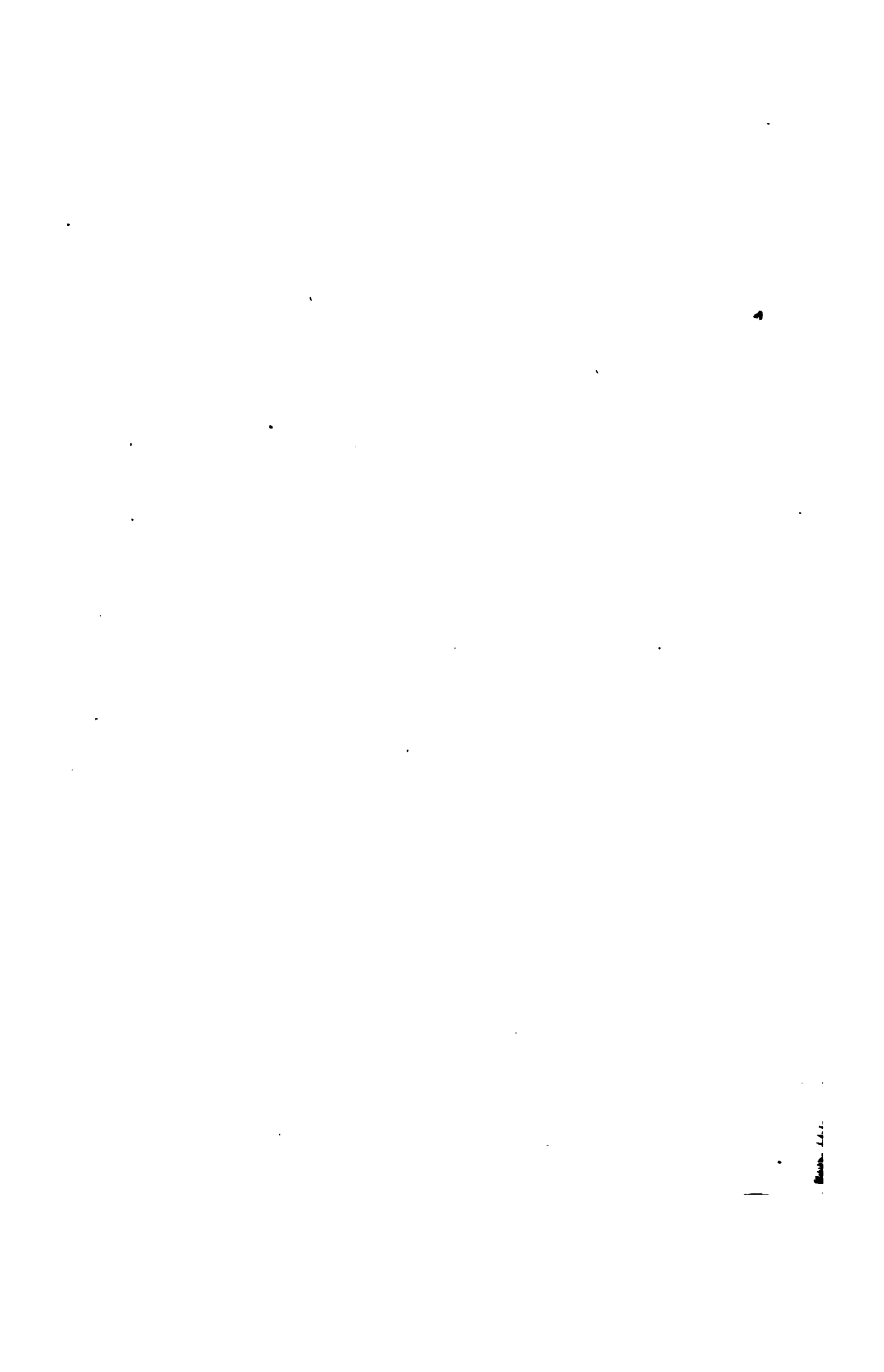
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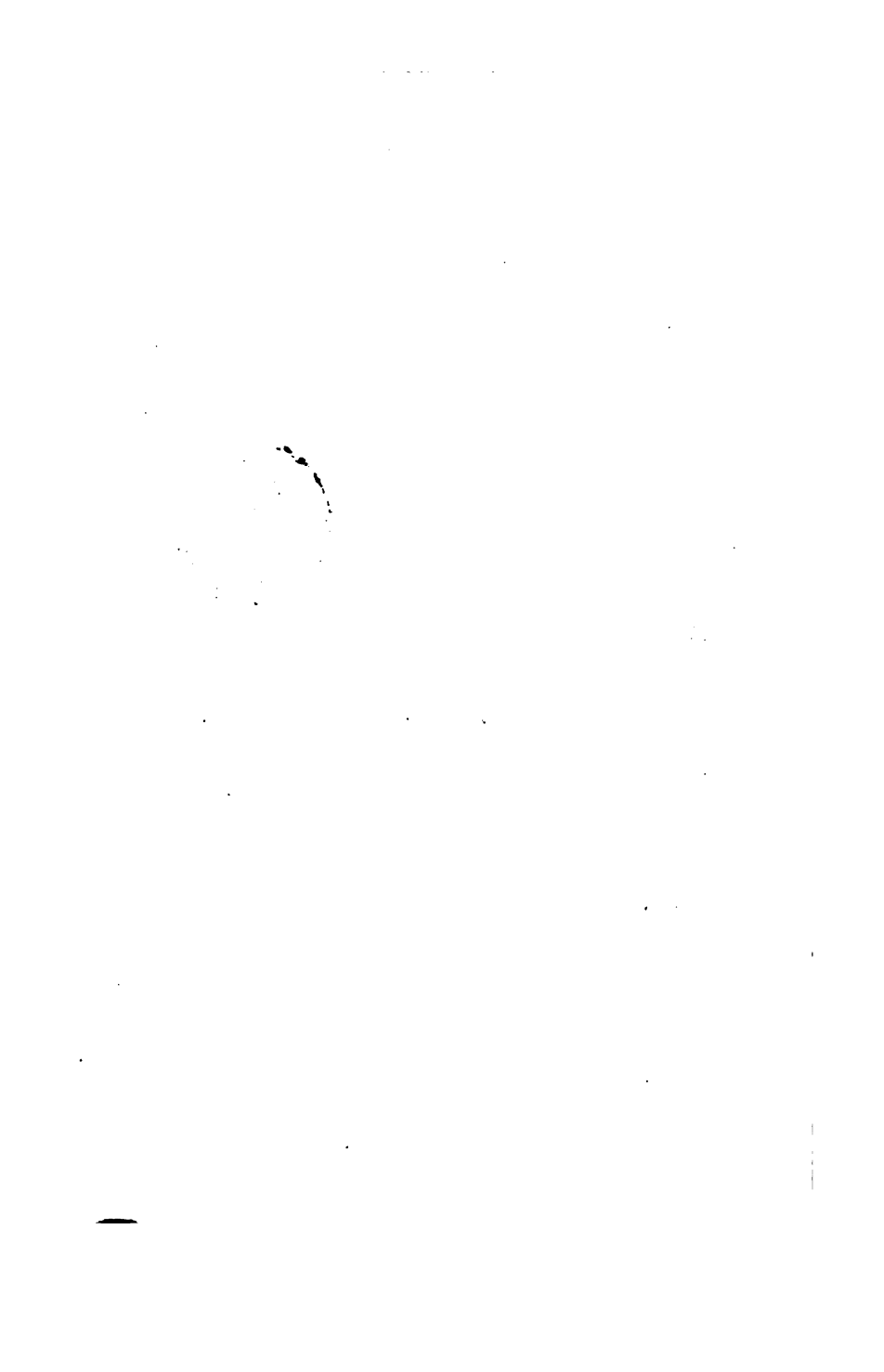
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THE
Ornithological Guide.



THE
ORNITHOLOGICAL
GUIDE:

IN WHICH ARE DISCUSSED

SEVERAL

INTERESTING POINTS

IN

ORNITHOLOGY.

BY CHARLES THOROLD WOOD, ESQ.

*
Come, fairy bird, and my sheltering trees,
Shall shield thy wing from the ruffling breeze :
Come, merrily flit through the fragrant bed,
And visit each flower by the summer dew fed.

1835.
LONDON:

WHITTAKER AND CO. AVE MARIA LANE;
AND WM. BEMROSE, DERBY.

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P R E F A C E.

THE following pages have been written in the hope of clearing up several disputed points in Ornithology, and setting others on a surer foundation. The reviews, it is to be hoped, will be found useful, and the chapter on the song of birds, as far as I am aware, sets the subject in a new point of view. But still, other authors may have treated it in a similar way for aught I know; only I am not aware of it. If I have erred in any particular, I shall be most happy to be righted.

——— “ Si quid novisti rectius istis,
Candidus imperti; si non, his utere mecum.”

That some such catalogue as that affixed to this little volume has long been wanted, is evident on entering any museum whether public or private: the objects being generally without any label at all, or otherwise having an inscription illegible or erroneous. And thus the visitor, unless he comes merely for beautiful colors and elegant forms, loses half the pleasure which an attentive examination of one of these collections is calculated to afford. For re-

marks on this subject relating to the British Museum I refer the reader to a very sensible article in Part 169 of the *MIRROR*, (vol. xxvi. p. 69,) where the subject is taken up in the proper spirit. Much of the value of DR. HORSFIELD'S collection is also lost through a similar neglect. The museum in Bruton Street is worse still. On looking for information concerning the birds, our eyes are perpetually greeted with a label to the following effect, "Presented by N. A. VIGORS, Esq." The student must certainly be very much edified by this piece of intelligence repeated many dozen times; and his scientific knowledge cannot fail to be greatly augmented thereby! Why not write this piece of information over the cabinet (if they please, in the largest characters they can invent,) and then label each bird with its vernacular and latin name, giving at the same time one or two of its most striking habits? The value of the gift would thus be tenfold greater than at present.

MR. WEAVER, the spirited proprietor of the Birmingham Museum, numbers each of the specimens, so that, on referring to the printed catalogue, the name of any bird may be found. This is certainly an improvement; but I think it would be preferable to label the birds at once. For many do not possess themselves of the catalogue, and those who do, frequently omit searching out the name of a bird, which, had it been before them, might have been indelibly impressed on their memory.

The catalogue now presented to the world will

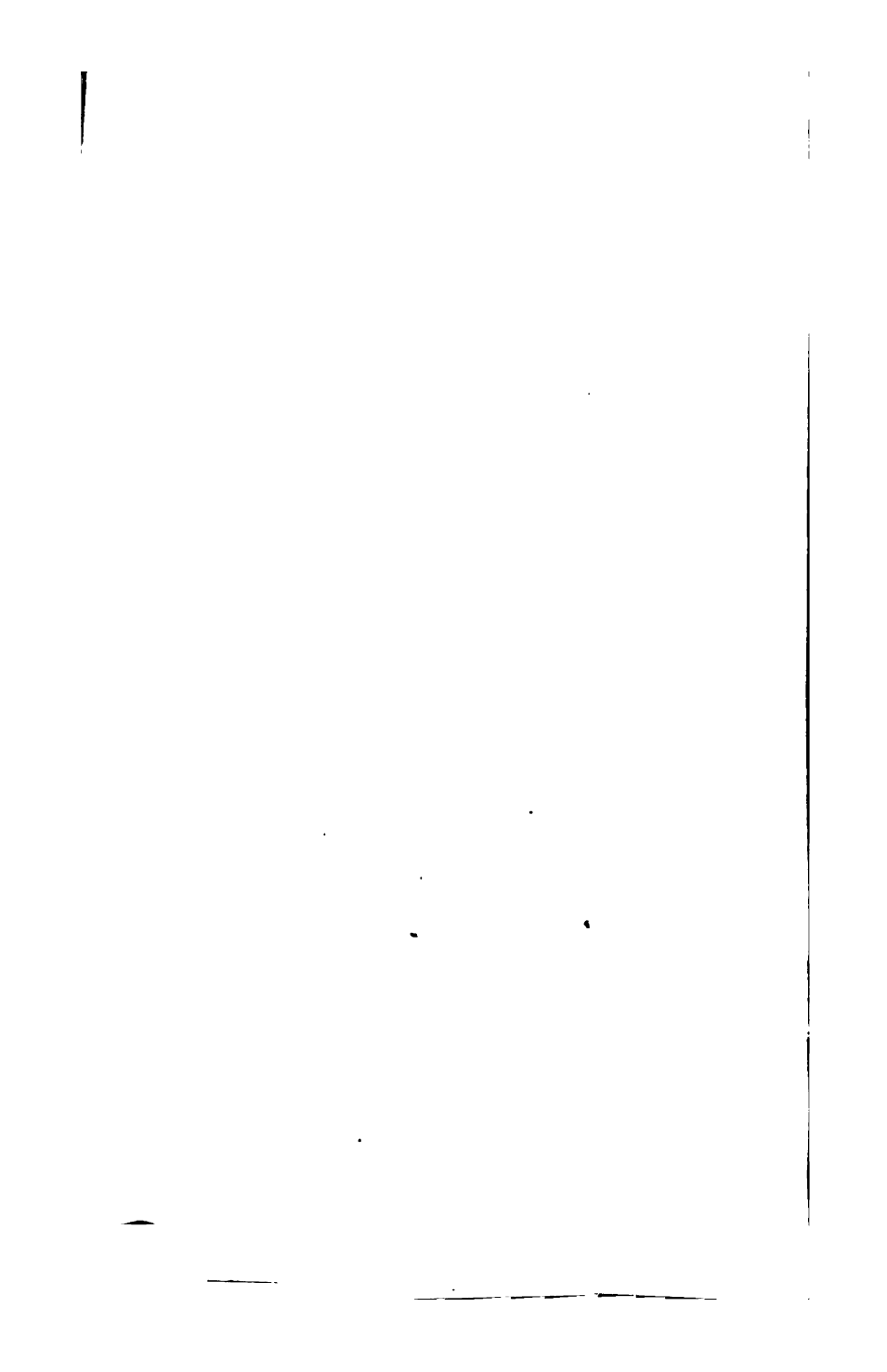
enable the proprietors of Museums to remedy these defects, and another also—incorrect nomenclature. This subject has been fully discussed in the following pages, and those who take an interest in the subject will be gratified by an article thereon in No. 12, of the ANALYST.

I have thought that the utility of our public museums would be greatly increased if books treating of the different departments were placed within the reach of all. On Ornithology I should recommend SELBY'S *British Ornithology*, and MUDIE'S *Feathered Tribes*—the two best works which have yet appeared on the subject.

In fine, I sincerely hope and trust that this little volume will meet with indulgence, and be treated with that fairness with which I have endeavoured to judge the works herein reviewed. I may now mention that this is merely the forerunner of a more extensive undertaking in preparation, and I shall be most happy to receive any communication on Ornithology, or Natural History in general, directed, for C. T. W., care of Neville Wood, Foston Hall, Derby. Such communications will be gratefully received and duly acknowledged.

C. T. WOOD.

September 24, 1835.



INTRODUCTION.

ORNITHOLOGY is the science which has for its object the investigation of the habits, affinities, and nature of birds. This pursuit, at first sight so trivial, will, if properly followed, be productive of many and important advantages. To enumerate and explain these in all their ramifications would require volumes, and even then, were the task performed by the most enlarged and comprehensive mind our earth has ever produced, it would still be imperfect, inasmuch as the Being who created the objects of our investigation, is infinite—and the investigators, are finite. On the present occasion, however, we can devote only a few sentences to the subject, in which we shall touch on two or three of the most obvious inducements to the study.

What a vivid charm those airy, ethereal winged sprites, the feathered songsters, infuse into a country life! When Spring has gilded the meadows with the golden kingcups, and enamelled the prairies with the bright-eyed daisy, or when May, the

Month of bees, and month of flowers,
Month of blossom-laden bowers,

forces you to leave your winter in-door pursuits, and quaff the sparkling and invigorating cup presented by Nature's own hand—when she fans you with her blandest gales, cheers you with her brightest beams, and enchants you with her loveliest scenes—what life, what breadth, what finish do the feathered race give to the whole! How charming to see the SWALLOW sweep past you with a speed that mocks the wind and outstrips the hurricane—now sailing in the blue expanse, now dashing past you, and leaving you in doubt whether 'twas a bird or a spirit that thus disturbed your meditations, and anon gliding over the glittering pool whose bright surface is darkened only where that aged hawthorn grows in peaceful luxuriance by the brink. On advancing towards yon beechen copse, the voice of nature's flute, the "Cuckoo gray," salutes you with his ever-same *Cu-coo*, *Cu-coo*—which, mellowed by the distance, falls on the ear with music-like sweetness. Not a field, not a streamlet, not a bush but its interest is a thousand-fold increased by the LARK, the WAGTAIL, or the WARBLER. Then amid their verdant halls, erected by "Nature, the wisest architect," how exquisitely beautiful 'tis to listen to the woodland minstrels pouring forth their rapturous songs, and swelling the gale with their "liquid utterance." All nature is so beautiful and the whole earth is so admirably tuned—every scene and every object is so beautifully adapted to the others with which it is related—each so greatly enhances the charms of

the rest, that the mind overflows with gladness,
delight, and gratitude, and we involuntarily exclaim

O ! thou merry month complete,

MAY, thy very name is sweet !

The beauty of every season in turn is enhanced,
in like manner, by the airy songsters. When

To mute and to material things

New life revolving SUMMER brings,

'tis pleasant to visit "the winding vales and woody
dells," where no sound less soothing than the cooing
of the RING PIGEON or the rich warble of the YEL-
LOW BILL falls on the ear of the weary wanderer,
reposing in "leafy luxury" beneath "the old pa-
trician trees so great and good," or under

The hawthorn's pleasant boughs,

Where a thousand blithe birds house.

Then again, if we wander abroad when

The Summer flowers are fading,

And AUTUMN winds arouse ;

when it may truly be said,

The sun like a glorious banner unfurled,

Seems to wave o'er a new, more magnificent world,

when the trees are decked in their gorgeous tapestry, and the landscape assumes a golden hue, how greatly are the strolls of the naturalist enlivened by

The REDBREAST's soft, autumnal song ;

or when we

—hear the THRUSH a farewell lay
Pour out as sinks to rest the day.
While from the stubble, sudden spring
The PARTRIDGES on sounding wing ;
And, LARKS high soaring in the air,
Proclaim their pleasure still is there.

And even when stern WINTER reigns supreme accompanied with all his ensigns of power, “which he most regally doth wear,”—when he has clad the earth in a crystal robe, and crowned the trees with a garniture of rime,

The REDBREAST swells,
In the slow fading wood, his little throat,

and charms us by his winning manners and confiding disposition. The WREN, the KINGLET, and the DUNNOC also enliven the uniformity of this bleak season, and, when the sunlight brightens the landscape into sparkling radiance, they carol forth their sweetest notes with all the beauty of their summer ditties !

Nor is it only in every *season* that

The Warblers here will charm your sense
With Nature's wildest eloquence ;

Should you wander forth "to meditate at eventide," you will be thrilled to your very inmost soul by the rich gust of melody poured forth by the silver-throated NIGHTINGALE, serenading the fair empress of night now gliding in serene majesty amid masses of snowy clouds, while she lights up this nether world with her cold liquid beams.

The CUCCOO too, and the REEDLING, lend their aid to heighten the charms of the moon-lit scene, and the OUZEL, the THRUSH, and the REDBREAST, send forth their wood-notes wild during the greater part of the night.

Scarce has the sun purpled o'er the eastern horizon and thus given notice of his approach, than

the SKY LARK warbles high
His trembling, thrilling exstacy ;
And, lessening from the dazzled sight
Melts into air and liquid light.

The Wren too,

Sweet warbler of the circling year,
Of Summer bright and Winter drear,

may be heard ere the first "shrill clarion" of the

gallant cock has announced the departure of night.

At early dawn thy native lay
Precedes the orient beam of day,
And oft at evening's parting ray,
I hear thy vesper song.

When the sun has risen and recalled to light and life
the slumbering world, the air in all directions is
filled with the melody of warblers innumerable—

Every copse
Deep tangled, tree irregular, and bush
Bending with dewy moisture, o'er the heads
Of the coy quiristers that lodge within,
Are prodigal of harmony.

And among these the song of the blithe BLACK-CAPT
FAUVET, (*Ficedula atricapilla*,) with his full, sweet,
deep, loud, and wild pipe, rises pre-eminent.

Oh ! fair befall thee, gay Fauvet,
With thrilling song and crown of jet ;
Thy pleasant notes with joy I hail,
Floating on the vernal gale.

The PHILOMEL also frequently sings the greater part
of the day,

And soft as the south-wind the branches among,
His plaintive lament goes floating along.

Towards evening again the songs of the woodland choir soften down into fuller, richer, deeper melody.—'Tis then that the soothing, mournful note of the RING PIGEON is heard to the greatest advantage:—

Wand'ring at eve the woods among,
I love to hear the Ring Dove's song,
That peaceful sound is ever dear,
I love that soft *coo, coo*, to hear.

The COMMON MERL or OUZEL, also chaunts his *vesper* melody with surprising richness,

the MERL's note,
Mellifluous, rich, deep-toned, fills all the vale,
And charms the ravish'd ear.

And if every SEASON, and every TIME is enlivened by the feathered race, so is every *scene*. Climb the mountain-side, and the EAGLE (*Aquila*) or the OSSIFRAGE (*Ossifraga*) on extended pinion shall greet your admiring gaze. See! he ascends, wheeling sun-wards, he gains on the great luminary, till he is lost in the cærulean vault of the "brave o'erhanging firmament."

Bird of the broad and sweeping wing,
Thy home is high in heaven,
Where wide the storms their banners fling,
And the tempest clouds are driven.

Thy throne is on the mountain-top,
Thy fields the boundless air ;
And hoary peaks that proudly prop
The skies thy dwellings are.

Next pay we a visit to the placid pool, and there

The stately sailing SWAN
Gives out his snowy plumage to the gale
And, arching proud his neck, with oary feet
Bears onward fierce and guards his osier isle
Protective of his young.

And not far off we shall behold the Coot "rocked
on the bosom of the sleepless wave."

And again, when strolling by the grassy side of
some retired stream

Did, you never the royal KINGFISHER see,
Resting himself on the willow tree!

Let us turn our steps to the wide moor stretched out
north, south, east, and west, as far as the eye can
reach, and having seemingly no boundary save the
encircling horizon,

There to his cackling dames,
On blooming heaths and secret lawns dispers'd,
The RED GROUSE calls.

The brawling rapids next our steps invite, and there the lively DIPPER (*Cinclus*) appears :—

Close to the riv'let bank, the DIPPER shy
Tries first his notes.

Next seek we the marsh and there “soon as the evening shades prevail,” the dire booming of the BITTERN will salute our ears :

——at dusk the BITTERN loud
Bellows, and blows her evening horn.

Should we be enticed into the garden, the active elegant YELLOW WARBLER (*Silvia melodia*) will charm us by his unceasing activity and lively habits.

Now thou art seen in the woodbine bower,
Gracefully gliding from flower to flower ;
Now climbing the stem of the asphodel,
Or the tall campanula's snowy bell.

There are yet other scenes. Even if

A thousand miles from land are we,
Tossing about on the roaring sea,

we shall still be accompanied by the feathered race. The STORMY PETREL (*Thalassidroma pelagica*) shoots past us like an arrow, as if the guardian spirit of the ocean : the poet describes it well :—

Up and down! up and down!
From the base of the wave to the billow's crown,
And amidst the flashing and feathery foam
The STORMY PETREL finds a home,—
A home, if such a place may be,
For her who lives on the wide wide sea,
On the craggy ice, in the frozen air,
And only seeketh her rocky lair
To warm her young, and to teach them spring
At once o'er the waves on their stormy wing!

Thus wherever the Ornithologist goes, he has still his favourite objects before him—whether in the close alleys of a city, among the ivy-clad remains of a mouldering fortalice, in the garden, on the moor, by the streamlet, on the mountain top, or on the far sea wave, he may always revel with ever fresh delight in the contemplation of those creatures with which the great Creator has so kindly peopled the air, the earth, the waters.

Let us then pursue those studies so obviously marked out for us by Him who commanded us to behold the lilies of the field, and who “careth for the Sparrows.” It is a study which will truly be found “health in sickness, and a sure anchor to the mind when the current of life runs adverse or turbulent,” and thus let us peacefully pursue our elevating contemplations, which link us to the Creator through his creatures, in the humble confidence that “a good Naturalist cannot be a bad man.”

ORNITHOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE.

MUCH confusion has arisen in Natural History through the general ignorance of the true principles of Nomenclature. I have on this account thought it advisable to devote a few pages to the discussion of this neglected but important subject. In the first place—every genus must have a separate generic name. This rule is observed in Latin, but not in English—it is however as necessary in the latter as in the former. This is admitted by scientific persons in theory, but not acted on in practice. In order to prove this I will take a few instances from SELBY'S *British Ornithology*, one of the best works in existence on the birds of Britain. The *Coccothraustes vulgaris*, WILLUGHBY, is here called "Haw Finch," the "*Plectrophanes nivalis*, MEYER—"Snow Bunting," the *Silvia melodia*, BLYTH—"Yellow Wren," the *Melizophilus provincialis*, LEACH—Dartford Warbler, and many others equally erroneous, and equally likely to mislead. If we hear an unscientific person calling the *Accentor modularis*, "Hedge Sparrow," we cannot much blame him, because it would be unfair to expect him to know the affinities of our sombre little guest the Hedge Dunnoc, or its

situation in Ornithological system:—if we take what is called the Natural System, his rank may be exhibited as follows:—

HEDGE DUNNOC.

- 1 *Kingdom.* Animalia.
- 2 *Division.* Vertebrata.
- 3 *Class.* Aves.
- 4 *Order.* Insessores.
- 5 *Tribe.* Dentirostres.
- 6 *Family.* Sylviadæ.
- 7 *Section.* Parianæ.
- 8 *Genus.* Accentor.
- 9 *Species.* Modularis.

In order that the situation of the two birds may be the more apparent, the rank of the House Sparrow shall be traced in a similar way:—

HOUSE SPARROW.

- 1 *Kingdom.* Animalia.
- 2 *Division.* Vertebrata.
- 3 *Class.* Aves.
- 4 *Order.* Insessores.
- 5 *Tribe.* Conirostres.
- 6 *Family.* Fringillidæ.
- 7 *Section.* Fringillana.
- 8 *Genus.* Passer.
- 9 *Species.* Domestica.

It is thus evident that not only the Genus of the Hedge Dumnoc is different from that of the House Sparrow, but also the Section, the Family, and even the Tribe. In fact, as BEWICK remarks, "it has no other relation to the Sparrow (*Passer*) than in the dinginess of its colors:—in every other respect it differs entirely." I do not mean to say that *Naturalists* adopt this name,—I am merely giving a striking instance of a very prevailing custom—a custom however not confined to Britain, as appears by the following passage from the splendid work of that distinguished Ornithologist, CHARLES LUCIAN BONAPARTE:—"According to BUFFON and VIEILLLOT, this bird (the Palm Warbler, *Silvia palmarum*, LATH.) is a permanent resident in the West Indies, where, as they state, the name is sometimes applied to it of *Fausse Linotte*. We, however, can perceive scarcely any resemblance, except in its dull state of plumage, to a similar state of the Redpoll Linnet. The name *Bimbele*, by which it is known among the negroes of those countries, is derived from the recollection of an African bird, to which, probably, the resemblance is not more evident. Unfortunately, this propensity of limited minds to refer new objects, however distinct, to those with which they are acquainted, seems to have prevailed throughout the world, and is found exemplified no where more absurdly than in the Anglo-American names of plants and animals." As long as scientific naturalists continue to adopt this mode of nomenclature,

so long will field naturalists and ordinary observers retain it:—the scientific should *guide* the ignorant, and not, as is too often the case, be *led* by them. The former by adopting the errors of the latter, reflect them back to their originators with double force. Man is an imitative animal, but then he must not let the imitative part of his nature stifle his reasoning powers.

For further remarks on this part of Nomenclature I shall refer to Nos. X, XI, and XII of the *Analyst*, (vol. II. p. 238, 305, and 419.) At page 419 will be found an able refutation of the arguments brought forward in p. 317 *against* the adoption of correct names. One of Mr. STRICKLAND's arguments is so puerile that I am at a loss to imagine how any one could have brought it forward, but it serves to show how miserably weak the anti-improvement arguments are. He says, "we are much more likely to be understood," if we give the common name whether it be erroneous or otherwise, "though, continues he, I willingly admit that it is *unscientific* to give the same generic name to an *Accentor* and a *Passer*.' Going on this ground we might argue for speaking bad grammar, and false pronunciation, defending them by saying that among a large class of persons we should thus be much better understood! "If a principle is good," says one of our first Naturalists, "its advantages will be more and more apparent, the more it is followed out in *detail*. *This is an axiom*." This being the case, Mr. STRICKLAND's principle is

unsound—it would not stand the test ; for if followed out in detail, it would lead back instead of forward, —and there is no middle course.

There is one class of Naturalists the members of which adopt any appellations which may be in use in the district where they reside, and who trouble themselves but little about scientific niceties—these are the Field Naturalists. They do not take erroneous names on system, as Mr. STRICKLAND would, but simply from indifference or thoughtlessness. They are so engaged in their subject, say they, that they cannot apply themselves to obtain the correct names ; but these should come as naturally as grammar—and so they would were the principles of the one understood as well as those of the other. Field Naturalists would greatly increase the value of their labours were they to pay more attention to these points, but instead of attending to them they are too apt to despise them. The pursuits and ways of thinking of this class has been so well drawn by SWAINSON, in his *Series of Zoology* in LARDNER'S *Cabinet Cyclopædia*, that I shall subjoin the sketch: —“Naturalists, in the general acceptation of the word, may all be classed under two distinct divisions—the practical and the scientific. Their more immediate pursuits, no less than their necessary qualifications, are very dissimilar, but he only who unites them all is the true naturalist. The practical naturalist wanders abroad, and observes individuals. The fields and the woods are his museum and library.

He contemplates living objects, but cares little for dead ones; he busies himself with watching the times and the seasons when certain animals make their appearance; he strives to know their food, instincts, habits; he is dissatisfied until he is acquainted with the note of every bird familiar to his neighbourhood; he studies the construction of their nests, their periodical arrivals and departures, their loves, their lives, and their deaths. He watches their several changes of form, of color, or of plumage; he traces how these circumstances are modified and influenced by the seasons; and he makes special notes of these things in his common-place book. If he discovers that his crops or his fruit are injured by insects, he rests not until he traces the aggressor through all its series of depredations; and, being armed with a knowledge of its secret modes of doing injury, he is the best man for applying a successful remedy. As for its scientific name, *that* gives him no thought; he cares not whether the name be old or new; it is sufficient for him that it gives to the insect an appellation. He will walk through a magnificent museum with no more curiosity than is felt by an ordinary person; and as for systems, and technical terms, 'he cannot away with them.' He wonders how people can count the joints of an antenna of an insect, measure the quill feathers of a bird, reckon the grinders of a quadruped, or number the rays of a fish's fin. His chief, if not his only interest is in the *life* of an animal. While others

are poring over ponderous tomes of cramp technicalities, he is out in the woods, capturing an insect, or looking after a bird. He has, in fine, either a general disregard or a thorough contempt—according to the construction of his mind*—for systems and their authors, and leaves to them to give what names they please to his discoveries.

“Such are the general characteristics of a practical, or, as he is now usually termed, a *field* naturalist, of the present day, as gathered from the sentiments conveyed by this class of observers in our natural-history periodicals. There is not only much to commend in such pursuits, as regards their effect upon the individual, but the facts which they bring to light form a very material part of the history of nature. This is apparent from the writings of WHITE, LEVAILLANT, AZARA, and WILSON; all of whom, with little deviation, studied nature upon this plan. They were essentially field naturalists. They took to themselves that department of research which called them into the open air: and they are, of all others, the best qualified to write the natural history of species. Every thing, however, past this line of inquiry, is beyond their province. Those who have been really eminent as original observers,

* This is not a correct expression; it should have been—according to the organization of his *brain*. For aught we know to the contrary, the *minds* of all may be similar; but its manifestations, while linked to the body, depend on the quality, quantity, and organization of the brain.—WOOD.

candidly confess this, and presume not to entertain the preposterous idea that *theirs* is the only department of natural history which deserves cultivation. They are satisfied with having gathered a stock of entertaining and instructive materials, to be subsequently worked up into general results and large generalizations by another set of naturalists, who take a different department in the extension of knowledge. It unfortunately happens, however, that men of all ranks are too apt to undervalue, or treat with affected contempt, those acquirements of which they are ignorant.* And as the business of the field naturalist requires little or no exercise of the higher powers of the mind," (Causality and Comparison) "but may be pursued by any one possessing a tact for observation" (resulting from individuality being fully developed,) "so we find that the generality of these observers are too prone to fancy that their pursuits alone lead to the only information on Natural history that is really worth acquiring. They will tell you to throw aside books and systems, and assure you that a 'few walks in the fields' are sufficient to make '*a very good naturalist.*' This royal road to science is no doubt very enticing to the young student, particularly if it is promulgated from

* The naturalist, says JOHNSON, has no desire to know the opinions or conjectures of the philologer; the botanist looks upon the astronomer as a being unworthy of his regard; the lawyer scarcely hears the name of a physician without contempt; and he that is growing great and happy by electrifying a bottle, wonders how the world can be engaged by trifling prattle about peace and war.—WOOD.

the chair of a professor;* but absurdities like this are unworthy of refutation. We must inform such sanguine beginners, that not only many walks must be taken, but many years consumed, before he will earn the reputation of being 'a very good naturalist;' and that, when this title has been acquired, he will then, if he has good sense and real talent, be conscious himself that the praise is undeserved. We might be tempted merely to smile at such folly, and only to pity the contracted minds of those who gave it currency, were it not for the mischievous effect that such notions may have upon the young student, from their tendency to repress all mental exertions, and all aspirations after any higher knowledge than the composition of a dabchick's* (Grebe's) nest, or the color of a Sparrow's egg. Inflated ideas of our own pursuits, and unmeasured abuse of others, are the natural results of ignorance and conceit.

"The business of the systematic or closet naturalist commences where that of the practical observer ceases. If he is not a mere catalogue-maker, or a devotee to systematic names—a race of worthies which in these days is almost extinct—he treasures all the facts communicated by his brethren of the field, and applies them as occasion serves, to their ultimate use. While the one collects, the other combines. By means of his library, he ascertains which of the facts are really new, and which have

* See Professor RENNIE's introduction to his edition of MONTAGU's *Ornithological Dictionary*.—WOOD.

been previously observed and recorded: he combines the *scientific* with the *natural* history of an animal. He examines its structure in every minute particular, and is thus enabled to trace the particular adaptation of this structure for performing all those functions which the field naturalist has witnessed during life; an intellectual gratification, by the way, which the latter, if he disregards such minutiae, cannot enjoy. He observes all those external peculiarities of shape, of color, or of markings, which distinguish the object before him as a species; he refers to his collections, compares it with others, and thus ascertains its true characters. But all this is but preliminary to other investigations; his business is not only with species but with groups, which are congregations of species; he has to condense particulars into generals; in other words, to search after and obtain general results from a multiplicity of isolated facts. He detects natural groups, and distinguishes them by characters applicable to the individuals which respectively compose them; he next compares these assemblages with others, and studies their several degrees of relationship. Proceeding in this manner, and ascending higher and higher in his generalizations, he concentrates the facts, spread into an octavo volume of zoological anecdotes and 'field' remarks, within the compass of a few pages. And while he thus makes use of the diffuse and disconnected observations of the field naturalist, he gives to them a stamp of importance,

which even their authors never imagined they possessed. Conversant with the different relations which one group of beings bears to another, he is enabled to trace the most beautiful and unexpected analogies throughout the animal kingdom, until he at length gains a full conviction of the paucity and simplicity of nature's laws, amidst the countless variety of her forms and modifications.

"The two departments of study here sketched, as pursued by the practical and the scientific naturalist, are brought before the reader, not for the purpose of vaunting the superiority of one over the other, but that he should clearly understand their nature, and make up his mind, at the outset, which path of inquiry he will pursue. But, indeed, if he be not frightened by the difficulties attending an enlarged knowledge of the science, he may combine both these trains of inquiry, in moderation, without the smallest detriment either to one or the other. He may *observe* in the fields, and *study* in his closet; and this is usually done by all the rising naturalists of the present day. Those who are satisfied with being mere amateurs, may confine their researches to what they can learn in the open air; yet even these would find a far superior delight in their favorite pursuit, by viewing it in a more intellectual and philosophic spirit; just as a person who understands the mechanism of a watch derives much more pleasure from knowing the relations of its parts, than he

did when he merely viewed it as an ingenious assemblage of wheels and springs." *Ser. of Zool.* vol. ii., p. 305.

Such observers as WHITE, KNAPP, HOWIT, JESSE, &c., would render their volumes ten times more useful, more valuable, and more satisfactory were they imbued with a little of the scientific spirit which marks the higher order of Naturalists—that is to say, Naturalists whose peculiar department requires the higher powers of the mind. As the present chapter is devoted principally to the discussion of Nomenclature, I shall now anatomize the paper of Mr. STRICKLAND—the grand champion of the stationary and stagnating system, now so universally abandoned. To begin with the beginning:—"To the EDITOR of the *Analyst*.—SIR, In your last number (No. X.) is a paper on the 'Nomenclature of Birds,' on which I am desirous of offering a few remarks. I think the writer's plan of altering many of the English names of our common birds, objectionable, because they more properly form part of our vernacular tongue than of the language of Science." But if Mr. STRICKLAND will turn to that article he will find that the writer has *not proposed* to alter "many of the English names of our common birds"—nor *has* he altered any. In the whole article the only English name he has altered is—Snowy Owl, (*Strix nyctea*, GM;) for this he has substituted—and very appropriately—GRAY SNOWFLAKE (*Nyctea cinerea*, STEPHENS;) and this bird has only lately been dis-

covered in Britain as a very *rare* inhabitant. What led Mr. STRICKLAND into this erroneous statement is probably the following passage:—"Are not the names Meadow *Pipit*, (*Anthus pratensis*, BECHST;) Java *Finch*, (*Fringilla oryzivora*, LIN.; Hedge *Dunnoc*, (*Accentor modularis*, CUV.;) Gray *Squaterol* (*Squatarola cinerea*, CUV.;) Willow *Warbler* (*Silvia melodia*, BLYTH;) European *Dipper*, (*Cinclus europæus*, STEV.;) Bearded *Pinnoc*, (*Calamophilus biarmicus*, LEACH;) and Snow *Longspur* (*Plectrophanes nivalis*, MEYER;) infinitely superior to those given above?" But not one of these names is new, so that the vernacular names are not altered. The other names "given above" for those birds are, Meadow or Tit *Lark*, Java *Sparrow*, Hedge *Sparrow*, Gray *Plover*, Willow *Wren*, Water *Ouzel*, Bearded *Tit*, and Snow *Bunting*. We may well say with the writer—"If an intelligent student finds in a book 'the Bearded *Tit*, (*Calamipholus biarmicus*,') he will ask, and with justice, how can *one bird* be in *two genera*; and no satisfactory reason can be given. By using the names I have given above, this is remedied, and all becomes plain, and easy to understand." Even supposing for the moment that no one has a right to *alter* received names, surely every one has a right to *choose* which of the received names he pleases, and not be nailed down to that appellation which happens to be used in the district where Mr. STRICKLAND resides. Now for Mr. STRICKLAND:—"They (the names) are consecrated

by usage as much as any other part of the English language, and consequently when we speak of an Hedge *Sparrow*, we are much more likely to be understood than if we call it an Hedge *Dunnoc*, though I willingly admit that it is *unscientific* to give the same generic name to an *Accentor* and a *Passer*." A weighty argument truly, and marshalled forth with due solemnity! Is it possible that Mr. STRICKLAND can maintain that every thing in the English language, or any other language which "is consecrated by usage," is to be preserved and perpetuated? What a backward state would science be in if scientific men were of the same opinion as Mr. STRICKLAND! I shall quote a passage in point from JENNING'S *Ornithologia*:—"The author is old enough to remember the *first* introduction of the present Chemical Nomenclature, and those who remember it as he does, can tell how it was opposed and derided; yet it has steadily made its way: he who should now, for a moment, contend that *Glauber's Salts* was a better term than *Sulphate of Soda*, for the same substance, would assuredly be dignified with a fool's cap." In other sciences the same reforms have been, and are constantly making, and shall Natural History lag behind because ignorance cannot, and prejudice will not see how beneficial are such changes? No!—the world of science echoes, No! Of this we shall give some instances hereafter; and shall now proceed with Mr. STRICKLAND'S epistle:—"But the truth is, that the science

of Ornithology does not suffer by this incorrect application of English names, because those familiar appellations have no real or necessary connection with *science*." With Mr. STRICKLAND's permission I beg leave to state that the science *does* suffer by the "incorrect application of English names," and even if it did not, I should still contend for their alteration simply because they were "incorrect." Although Mr. STRICKLAND has brought no facts to support his assertion, I will not make that an apology for leaving my statement equally unsupported. To prove that incorrect English names mislead, I will produce a few instances out of numbers that occur. In LOUDON's *Magazine of Natural History*, vol. VI, p. 72, a correspondent notes down the "Mocking bird" in a list of birds which visit his neighbourhood (Clithero, Lancashire.) This occasions another correspondent to remark as follows:—"By the Mocking bird observed at Clithero, Lancashire, (p. 72) your correspondent, I presume, means the *Curruca salicaria* of FLEMING, (Sedge Reedling, *Salicaria phragmitis*, SELBY.) Had he appended the systematic name to the Lancashire one, he would not have left his communication open to the following query, made to me by one to whom I had lent my copy—"Is the American Mocking bird (*Turdus polyglottis*) a spring visitant to England," p. 279. What becomes of Mr. STRICKLAND's assertion, "we are much more likely to be understood" if we adopt the vulgar and incorrect names? "Mocking bird" is the common

name for the Sedge Reedling in England, just as it is for the *Turdus polyglottis*, in America, and in both cases, or in any case, it is likely to produce confusion, and is therefore generally abandoned by those who have considered the subject maturely. By "mocking bird" may be understood a Reedling (*Salicaria*,) or a Jay (*Garrulus*,) or a Fauvet (*Ficedula*,) or a Finch (*Fringilla*,) or many others, for all these have, as will hereafter be shown, the imitative faculty well developed, but if we say *Mimic Reedling*, *Mimic Thrush*, &c., the confusion vanishes instantly, and our meaning is no longer subject to doubts and queries. Another correspondent, in a communication from Pennsylvania, (says (VI, 102.)—"Flocks of Green Finches continued in the vicinity of the warm springs, near my residence, throughout the winter." This occasions the following query from another correspondent:—"Of what species is the Green Finch of Pennsylvania?" If the proper generic and specific name had been used, instead of the vulgar ones, employed by the lower orders in the United States, this query had been unnecessary. In the same communication are several other inaccuracies of a similar nature, as—"a single Robin appeared on the Beaver Dams, followed by considerable numbers on the next day." By *Robin* I presume he intends the Migratory Thrush, (*Turdus migratorius*, LIN.;) but in this country most persons would suppose the Robin Redbreast, (*Rubecula familiaris*, BLYTH,) to be meant. The name

"Blackbird" is also used, by which the Yellowbill or Common Ouzel (*Merula vulgaris*, WILL.) would be understood here, but a very different bird is intended—the Redwinged Hangnest, (*Icterus phœniceus*, BON.) In another part of the Magazine a correspondent sends a list of birds which have been shot in his neighbourhood; to each of these the editor appends the Latin name, except to "Oven Bird," which he declares himself unacquainted with. I had heard that a species of Warbler (*Silvia*) inhabiting North America was known among the vulgar by that name, and was thus on the tiptoe of expectation thinking that a new bird had probably been discovered in our island. I however accidentally found that one of our commonest, and most familiar spring visitants, was intended. In the *Linnean Transactions*, (vol. XV, p. 20,) "Oven bird" is placed among the synonyms of our familiar vernal guest the Yellow Warbler! (*Silvia melodia*, BLYTH.) The Gallinule is commonly known by the name of "Moor Hen;" in Scotland MUDIE says that the Red Grouse (*Tetrao scotius*, LATH.) goes by that appellation. In most Ornithological works "Cuddy" is given as a synonym of the Gallinule, but in many parts the Dunnock is known by that name. Thus it is evident that to use the popular terms *would* produce confusion, and consequently retard science. Mr. STRICKLAND proceeds:—"The first and most important requisite in scientific terms is, that they should be universally adopted, and

hence the fathers of Natural history have wisely employed the Latin language as the source of their nomenclature, being generally understood by the learned among all civilized nations. English names, are useful only to denote those natural objects which are so common or remarkable in our own country as to attract the attention even of the vulgar, but as the *science* of natural history does not in the least require their assistance, I should be sorry to see them in any degree *substituted* for those *Latin* appellations which are universally current in the republic of science. The first sentence of this extract requires no comment—no one combats the sentiment it conveys ; but the second must not pass so easily. It seems that Mr. STRICKLAND would deprive a large portion of the community of the convenience of calling many birds by English names, merely because they are not “so common or remarkable in our own country, as to attract the attention of the vulgar.” Truly this is very obliging—because the vulgar have not been sufficiently enlightened to look on *every* part of the creation as equally remarkable and worthy of investigation, therefore those who wish to gain information concerning a particular object, are to be debarred from the convenience of calling it in conversation by an English name, and forsooth, must wait till it has become sufficiently “common or remarkable” to be thought worthy of a name by the vulgar. As for their being “substituted in any degree for the Latin,” no one desires that,

but it is certain that the Latin name would not be required so frequently if the proper English names were given, as in the case of the Mocking bird and Sedge Reedling before mentioned. Now for Mr. STRICKLAND:—"I may remark that French naturalists are much more addicted to the adoption of vernacular names to the exclusion of scientific ones, than the English. By endeavouring to coin a French term for every natural object, in addition to the Latin one which it already possesses, they exactly double the enormous labor of bearing in memory the innumerable terms with which science is unavoidably encumbered." I do not think that the French show any disposition to "exclude" the Latin names, simply their own system of vernacular nomenclature being more exact than ours, the incessant repetition of the Latin name is rendered unnecessary. And so far from the creation of a vernacular generic name, doubling the *enormous labor* (!!!) as Mr. STRICKLAND calls it, of the herculean task of bearing in memory the innumerable terms, &c. &c., I should rather say that its effects would be exactly to half the slight degree of application requisite to attain a familiarity with scientific terms, and at the same time render the acquisition of science ten times easier. To proceed with Mr. STRICKLAND's article:—"If, then, I am correct in regarding the *English* names of Birds as belonging not to science, but to our mother tongue, it is clearly better to let them remain as they are than by endeavouring to reform

the English language, to make changes which are certain not to be universally adopted." The "if" at the beginning comes in very appropriately—but the premises being false the conclusion must, of course, fall. Mr. STRICKLAND by the last part of the sentence clearly labors under the delusion that the improvements made in nomenclature "are certain not to be universally adopted." It has been remarked,—“in all things the past is the only mirror in which we can see the future.” Let us then consult the past and see what is promised for the future. A few years ago the genus *Cinclus*, universally, even in books—and in the best books too—received the name *Water Ouzel* in English, and *Merle d'eau* in French. Now those erroneous and absurd names have been abandoned, and DIPPER in English, and *Cincle* in French, are every where used. The same may be said of the names *Water Hen*, *Hedge Sparrow*, *Sea Swallow*, *Fern Owl*, *Reed Sparrow*, *Gold-crested Wren*, all of which, (though to the modern Ornithologist it appears almost incredible) were used even by the scientific in the time of WILLUGHBY. What says Mr. STRICKLAND next:—"The second requisite in scientific nomenclature is, that when once established, it should remain unaltered. Hence I cannot but regard as erroneous the prevailing notion that *improved names* may be at any time substituted for those which, though already established, are less appropriate. In naming a new genus or species, for the first time, it is of course desirable

to give it the most appropriate appellation that can be found, but when a name has once become current, it is no longer the *sense* but the *sound* that recalls the idea of the object to our minds, and it is, therefore of more importance that a name should be universally adopted, than that its *meaning* should be exclusively applicable to the object it denotes. To insure this *universality* in the use of terms, the only rule is to recur to the name originally given by the founder of the genus or species, which name I think no modern innovator has any more right to alter than he has to *improve* upon the name bestowed on a child by its godfathers. For these reasons I must still continue to prefer the term *Motacilla alba* to either *M. lotor* or *M. maculosa*, and to call the Goatsucker *Caprimulgus*, instead of either *Nyctichelidon* or *Vociferator*. I will now conclude these hasty remarks by referring your correspondent to LOUDON'S *Magazine of Natural History*, for January last, (vol. VIII, p. 36,) where he will find the same subject treated of more at large." I agree with Mr. STRICKLAND when he says, "the second requisite of scientific nomenclature is, that when once established, it should remain unaltered:" but then the first requisite must have been previously complied with,—that an appropriate name has been originally given. Mr. STRICKLAND may, if he chooses, "regard as erroneous the prevailing notion" that correct names may be substituted for incorrect ones, but the notion will continue to prevail so long as human beings

exercise Causality, instead of being blindly led in the sheeptrack by Imitation. "In naming a new genus or species, for the first time, it is of course desirable to give it the most appropriate appellation that can be found;" so far so good: but if the nomenclator has failed in this, it is the business—nay, the duty, of another to supply the desideratum which, if successful, ought not again to be altered. WILLUGHBY called the Pied Wagtail, *M. alba*; RENNIE finding this to be in contradiction with the appearance of the bird, changed the name to *M. lotor*; this however being applicable equally to every species of Wagtail, I changed to *M. maculosa*—which though certainly not perfect, (there being other Wagtails to which it would apply,) is yet perhaps as perfect a specific name as can be found for this species. To change carelessly or without sufficient reason cannot be too strongly condemned, but a moderate and wholesome reform is what everything human must undergo. And to insure the "universality," for which Mr. STRICKLAND wishes, it is of the utmost importance that the most unobjectionable term be in every case adopted, and whoever alters that without a sufficient reason must be set down as a retarder of the progress of science equally with the anti-reformers. The comparison between scientific nomenclature, and the names given to human beings, is too ridiculous to merit exposure—when it was brought forward there must have been a sad lack of sound arguments to support the

sinking cause for which Mr. STRICKLAND argues. There are some however who might be led away even by this comparison—absurd as it is. “A complete parallel,” says Mr. STRICKLAND, “seems to exist between the proper names of species and of men.” This, in my opinion, is a most unfortunate and ill sorted comparison. The object of names bestowed on men is to enable us to distinguish each individual by arbitrary sounds—for it would be impossible to find names expressing some personal peculiarity for each individual, and even were it possible, the plan, if put in practice, would be productive of more confusion than advantage: thus suppose a person named in infancy “dark-hair;” by the time he has attained maturity some accident may have turned his hair light-colored, or he may have lost it altogether, and thus the appellation would but ill suit him ever after. The case is however very different with birds: for although an individual of the species called *Blackcap Fauvet* may be *white* cap, or a specimen of the genus *Longspur* may have accidentally lost his spurs, yet this does not invalidate the name for the rest of the species or genus. The names given to men are merely arbitrary signs and sounds—no one thinks of the sense; it would therefore be ridiculous to attempt a change; but in science the case is very different—the meaning *is* thought of there. I do not say that it is necessary that the generic name should have a meaning, but that if it *has* a meaning it must not

convey an erroneous notion. Sparrow, Pinnoc, Ouzel, Abern,* Lark, Siskin, &c., &c., have no meaning, but no one objects to them as generic appellations—it is such names as *Goatsucker*, *Titmouse*, *Sapsucker*, &c., that are objectionable, and ought to be altered. Mr. STRICKLAND then says, “for these reasons I must still continue to prefer the term *M. alba* to either *M. lotor* or *M. maculosa*, and to call the Goatsucker *Caprimulgus*, instead of either *Nyctichelidon* or *Vociferator*.” In other words, he will prefer continuing in error, even after he has been convinced that what he defends, is error, to investigating and adopting what is right—so be it, and let us see what others say. In a very prettily written work by EMILY TAYLOR lately published—the *Boy and the Birds*, in which the latter are supposed to relate their history to the former—the Nightjar speaks as follows:—“I am anxious to have a place among the birds whom you are catechising about their history and habits, for though I am happy to say people are beginning to open their eyes to my true character, and I constantly hear my innocence of all bad propensities asserted by competent persons, my race have had a very long struggle for common justice. It is hardly half a century since one Mr. WHITE, of Selburn, protested that we were utterly incapable of doing the mischief imputed to

* SELBY calls the species which visits Britain, the “Alpine *Neophron*,” but, it is objectionable to use Latin names in English: this species might be called the Alpine Abern (*Neophron alpinus*.)

us; that we never could, by any possibility, milk goats; nor, said he, were we the least likely to wound cattle with our bills. He said very true; but prejudice is strong, and a bad name was still fastened upon us. The Fern Owl was still called the *Goatsucker* in English, and in Latin *Caprimulgus*, which keeps up the error. Let me entreat you, kind friend of birds, whenever *you* talk Latin about me, rather to call me *Nyctichelidon*. This is my latest name,—given me by a gentleman who knows me well; and I see no objection to it, except that it may be a little hard to spell and pronounce at first sight; but for the sake of justice, you, I am confident, will soon overcome that small difficulty. Then, in English, you may always call me the Fern Owl.” p. 156. The spirit in which this is written is admirable, but the names proposed as substitutes for the old appellations are fully as calculated to mislead as those. The bird is not a Swallow (*Hirundo*) as *Nyctichelidon* imports, neither is it an Owl (*Strix*.) We are told that the gentleman who gave the name *Nyctichelidon* knows the bird well, but if we judge of his knowledge of the bird by the appellation he has bestowed, it will be pronounced lamentably deficient. However, it is the *principle* I advocate—that obtained, the rest will follow smoothly. Let us next see what BEWICK says:—“To avoid as much as possible, perpetuating error, we have dropped the name Goatsucker, which has no foundation but in ignorance and superstition, and have adopted one,

which, though not universally known, bears some analogy to the nature and qualities of the bird, both in respect to the time of its appearance, which is always the dusk of evening, as well as to the jarring noise which it utters while at rest perched on a tree, and by which it is peculiarly distinguished." *Brit. Birds. Art. Nightjar.* Now for WILSON'S sentiments on the subject:—"The ridiculous name Goatsucker,—which was first bestowed on the European species, from a foolish notion that it sucked the teats of the goats, because, probably, it inhabited, the solitary heights where they fed, which nickname has since been applied to the whole genus—I have thought proper to omit. There is something worse than absurd in continuing to brand a whole family of birds (the old name given to the Nightjar-family was *Caprimulgidæ*, Goatsucker-family) with a knavish name, after they are universally known to be innocent of the charge. It is not only unjust, but tends to encourage the belief in an idle fable that is totally destitute of all foundation." RENNIE says as follows:—"The Nightjar, it would appear, is the butt of innumerable mistakes; for though it feeds, like the bat, upon nocturnal moths and other night-flying insects, the small birds shew, by the attacks they make upon it, that they believe it to prey upon them, in the same way as they mistake the Cuckoo (*Cuculus*) for the Hawk (*Accipiter*.) The name also which it has received in all languages, of GOATSUCKER, (most absurdly

continued by systematic naturalists in the term *Caprimulgus*,) shews the opinion of it entertained by the vulgar. It is, however as impossible for the Nightjar to suck the teats of cattle, (though most birds are fond of milk,) as it is for cats to suck the breath of sleeping infants, of which they are popularly accused; inasmuch, as the structure of their organs would baffle any such attempt." We thus see the opinions entertained of the name *Goat-sucker* by naturalists high and low, and yet notwithstanding the condemnation passed on it by these competent judges, notwithstanding that it is condemned by reason, by justice, by benevolence, and by truth, notwithstanding this—Mr. STRICKLAND coolly and deliberately says—he shall continue to use it, and to prefer it to any other! After this barefaced declaration, his opinions and remarks on this subject forfeit all claim to that consideration which they might otherwise have possessed. "Plerique errare mallent eamque sententiam quam adamarerunt, pugnaciter defendent, quam sine pertinacia, quid constantissime dicatur, exquirent." Will not Mr. STRICKLAND come under this class?

A correspondent has objected to the name *Nightjar* on the score of the species in that genus (as he represents) not making their noise in the *night*, but only at dusk. Let us examine this objection. 1st., the bird *does* make his clatter in the night, and about midnight too; and 2nd: even granting that he does not serenade his mate at *mid*-night, yet if he does

so at dusk, he must also do so in the night, for dusk does not commence in summer till the night has commenced—taking night in the correct acceptation of the term, the twelve hours that usually elapse between sunrise and sunset—that is to say, night in contradistinction to day.* Another has said that the term does not *exclusively* apply to this genus, as the species of several other genera, make a harsh jarring noise in the night. This is very true; but will not this objection apply equally to many other generic names which have never been objected to? For instance, Woodpecker, Wagtail, Warbler, Redbreast, Grosbeak, Longspur, Creeper, Nutcracker, and many others. In short, I do not recollect a single meaning generic name in Ornithology (with the exception of CROSSBILL (*Crucirostra*, MEYER) which will not apply to other genera, than that for which it is used. Thus if Nightjar is rejected on account of its applicability to other genera, so must almost every meaning generic name in Ornithology be also rejected. I incline to the opinion of several eminent Naturalists, in thinking *unmeaning* generic names to be the best, such as Fauvet, Eagle, Thrush, Wren, Amzel. Partridge, Duck, Hern, &c.

I shall now extract the article in the *Analyst* which answers the communication of Mr. STRICKLAND, the arguments of which I have shewn to be

* See some excellent remarks on this subject (on the misapplied application of the word *night*) in that amusing work—*Prose by a Poet*.

so unsound:—"I was by no means surprised to perceive in the last number, (No. XI,) of the *Analyst*, that my proposed alteration (though a very slight one) in the English nomenclature of birds, was considered objectionable by Mr. STRICKLAND, I am well acquainted with the views of that correspondent on this subject, from his paper in the *Magazine of Natural History*, which, in my opinion, does not contain one sound argument in favour of his statements. On this occasion I shall confine my remarks to his paper in the *Analyst*.

"Mr. STRICKLAND says, at page 317, that the English names of birds 'are consecrated by usage as much as any other part of the English language,' (a gradual change is constantly effecting in every part of the English language,) and consequently if we call it an Hedge *Sparrow*, we are much more likely to be understood, than if we call it an Hedge *Dunnoc*, though I willingly admit that it is *unscientific* to give the same generic name to an *Accentor* and a *Passer*." I am sorry that Mr. S. belongs to that unimproving class who consider that 'whatever is, is right.' If every one were of the same opinion, the world would never advance. As to the name Hedge *Sparrow* being better known than Hedge *Dunnoc* (although the bird goes by the latter name in many parts of England,) that is possible enough; but it is the business of the scientific naturalist to reform these abuses, and to substitute proper names for those which are erroneous and unscientific.

Why Natural History should be doomed to possess so loose and unscientific a nomenclature, while that of all other sciences is so exact and precise, I am really at a loss to determine. I remember when I first entered on the study of Ornithology, I actually supposed the 'Bull Finch' to be a true* Finch; and is this to be wondered at? I had heard that every bird had a generic and a specific name, and, therefore, it was quite natural to conclude that the generic name indicated the genus to which the species belonged; how grievously I was mistaken, the works of any modern Ornithologist will amply testify.

"The number of naturalists (field naturalists especially) is now so great, that were the proper English names given in all standard Ornithological works, the multitude would insensibly follow in the steps of the professor. For the amateur naturalist would use in common conversation such names as they had been accustomed to meet with in books. Thus the name GALLINULE has now almost wholly superseded the absurd name 'Water Hen.' The Naturalist should direct the multitude, and not the multitude the Naturalist.

"If Mr. STRICKLAND objects to the name *Hedge Dunnoc*, what will he say to that used by SELBY, in his masterly work, the *British Ornithology*; in both the first and second editions, that excellent

* The word *true* had better have been omitted here: see the *Analyst*, vol. II, p. 437, in a review of volume II, of SWAINSON'S *System of Nature*.

naturalist calls this bird the *Hedge Accentor*. Now although there is no scientific error in this name, yet it is, in my opinion, too pedantic for common use. SELBY seems rather partial to using Latin names in English; thus he has, the Egyptian *Neophron*, (*Neophron percnopterus*,) the Swallow-tailed *Elanus*, (*Elanus furcatus*,) the Goldcrested *Regulus*, (*Regulus auricapillus*,) the Hedge and Alpine *Accentors*, (*Accentor modularis* and *A. alpinus*,) &c. It is evident enough that there is no essential objection to any of these names; still, however, it is probable that the generality of those who read works on natural history would not adopt them. But who can object to the name White-headed Forktail (*Elanus leucocephalus*, mihi,) or to the beautiful and expressive name KINGLET (*Regulus*?)

“Even supposing that the science of Ornithology did ‘not suffer by this incorrect (and Mr. STRICKLAND allows it to be incorrect) applications of English names,’ yet the difficulties thus placed, unnecessarily, in the way of the student, would sufficiently warrant the change of the names. Anything loose or unscientific is totally inadmissible in science. Science is surely sufficiently abstruse in itself without heaping upon it inaccuracies which render it ten times more difficult! But to proceed.

“Mr. STRICKLAND observes that ‘the first and most important requisite in scientific terms is that they should be universally adopted, and hence the

fathers of Natural History have wisely employed the Latin language as the source of their nomenclature, being generally understood by the learned among all civilized nations.' It is certainly very important that scientific terms should be generally adopted, but before names become well known, the newly proposed one might be followed by the old and Linnean name.* It is essential to the improvement of Ornithological science that names—Latin as well as English—be frequently altered; for when a new system is proposed—and there are now few who advocate the Linnean system—new names must necessarily be introduced, and as new systems are always propounded in works which it is essential for every scientific Naturalist to possess, there would be no fear of the names not being sufficiently known.

"I by no means advocate—as Mr. STRICKLAND seems to think—the *substituting* English for Latin names, but merely wish to effect a reform in the

* Mr. BLYTH has proposed this plan in the *Field Naturalist's Magazine*, vol. I., p. 355:—"The chief bar, however, at present to all improvements in classification, is the confusion which is caused by calling the same species by various and different names; but this confusion may, in a great measure, if not entirely, be prevented, by adding to the approved systematic name of an animal, that also by which it was first known and described in systematical nomenclature." For instance; the Whitetailed Ossifrage (*Ossifraga albicilla*; *Aquila marina* of WILLUGHBY.) the Solan Gannet (*Sula alba*, MEYER, *Anser bassanus* of WILL.) the Carbuncle Kinglet (*Regulus carbunculus*, BONAP., *R. Cuvierii* of AUD.), the Bearded Pinnoc (*Calamophilus biarmicus*, LEACH, *Parus biarmicus*, of LINNEUS) the Sedge Reedling (*Saknaria phragmitis*, SELBY, *Sylvia phragmitis*, of BECHSTEIN,) &c.—WOOD.

former, which has long been most grievously wanted. To say that 'the science of Ornithology does not suffer by this incorrect application of English names,' is evidently erroneous, and requires no comment from me. Mr. STRICKLAND also speaks of 'changes which are certain not to be universally adopted.*' One or two instances will prove the groundlessness of this assertion; *Cinclus aquaticus* was formerly invariably called the "Water Ouzel," and the Pipits (*Anthus*) were termed "Tit Larks;" now, however, the former receives the name DIPPER, and the latter of PIPIT in Ornithological works; and rarely do we now meet with the old names in the Natural History periodicals of the day. It is unnecessary to multiply instances.

"The whole use of a system is to facilitate the acquirement of Natural History; consequently this system should be as simple, and as free from errors as possible, in every part. This is a proposition which, I think, no one will deny, and I consider that the slight alteration in English Nomenclature, proposed by me in a former number (No. X.,) greatly conduces to this important end. If I wished the science to remain stationary, then indeed I should say, leave the names as they are.

* Happily for the cause of science, our Ornithologists are not of the same opinion as Mr. STRICKLAND. Thus MUDIE gives the name HEDGE WARBLER to the *Silvia hippolais*, vulgarly Pettichaps; the translator of BECHSTEIN's *Cage Birds* uses the name DUNNOC; and SELBY introduces the following new names—LONGBEAK, (*Macroramphus*,) LOBEFOOT (*Lobipes*,) SWIFTFOOT (*Cursorius*,) TRICK-NEE (*Edicnemus*,) HARELD (*Harelda*,) GARROT (*Clangula*,) &c."

“Temmink and Stephens, as stated in a former paper, are amongst those Naturalists who have paid most attention to this subject, and I have no doubt but that the generally correct nomenclature of the *General Zoology* has greatly improved the English nomenclature of birds. Whatever names are adopted in standard Ornithological Works, will of course be used by amateur Naturalists, and finally by the public. SELBY effected several good alterations in English Nomenclature, but he seemed to be labouring under the erroneous impression that giving proper names would render his work on *British Ornithology* unpopular.

“Leaving this subject to the consideration of your readers, let us just glance at an article on ‘Vernacular and Scientific Ornithological Nomenclature,’ at p. 305. Not only are the principles inculcated in this paper sound, but they are carried into practice in a manner which has never been equalled. The names there proposed are excellent, and especially that of the *Caprimulgus Europeanus* of Linneus. Your correspondent proposes to name it the FERN NIGHTJAR (*Vociferator melolontha*.)”

“This name is infinitely superior to my name *V. Europeanus*, which besides being rather a vague and inexpressive specific name, is erroneous, as there is another European species, the REDNECKED NIGHTJAR (*Vociferator ruficollis*, mihi; *Caprimulgus ruficollis*, TEM.) The generic name of LINNEUS and other authors was, however, what I most objected

to. These remarks having already extended to a greater length than I originally intended, I here close my paper."

This paper is in the right spirit, and if two or three of our scientific Ornithologists were to take up the subject in the same way, notwithstanding, the forebodings of Mr. STRICKLAND and his followers, (if he has any,) nomenclature would in a very short time assume a very different aspect. However men may shut their eyes and their understandings to *argument*, yet *FACTS* are not so easily set aside. The anti-reforming race—the clogs as it were on human improvement—may flinch from "one of those pestilent fellows that pins a man down to *facts*," but so long as Comparison and Causality have a place in the human mind, those who are unfortunate enough as to have but a weak development of these organs, will in vain attempt to *prevent* progression, though they may *retard* it for a time.*

I shall now glance over a few of the principal Ornithological works in order to see how far their authors coincide with Mr. STRICKLAND's creed of Nomenclature. Speaking of the Downy Woodpecker, WILSON says:—"This, and the two former spe-

* It has been suggested that if *Bull Finch* is objected to for the genus *Pirrola*, *Tit Lark* for *Anthus*, &c., *Butter Fly* should be also rejected for the genus *Papilio*, and *Dragon Fly* for *Libellula*;—certainly they should; and to say nothing of accuracy, would not the names *PAPILULE* and *LIBELULE* be far more euphonic than the barbarous names *Butter Fly* and *Dragon Fly*? These changes, however, must be very gradual, and we must commence with the most important.

cies, (the Hairy Woodpecker, and the Yellow-bellied Woodpecker,) are generally denominated *Sapsuckers*. They have also several other provincial appellations, equally absurd, which it may perhaps, be more proper to suppress than to sanction by repeating." Now supposing WILSON had been infected with the notion of particular names being "consecrated by usage," and similar nonsense, he would have adopted the name *Sapsucker*, saying that, as it was almost universally known in the United States by that name, and "Downy Woodpecker" being only found in the catalogues of two or three system-makers, it would not only be hopeless for him to attempt the change, but that it would be wrong for him to do so, as the usual name was part of the English language. Whether this course, or that which he actually adopted was most for the advancement of science and truth, may safely be left to the decision of the unprejudiced reader.

I shall now extract another instance of the ardour for accuracy of this greatest of Ornithologists: the bird under consideration is the Orchard Oriole (*Oriolus mutatus*, WILS.)—the Orchard Hangnest (*Icterus mutatus*) of modern systems:—"And here," says WILSON, "I cannot but take notice of the name which naturalists have bestowed on this bird, and which is certainly remarkable. Specific names, to be perfect, ought to express some peculiarity, common to no other of the genus; and should, at least, be consistent with truth; but, in the case now

before us, the name has no one merit of the former, nor even that of the latter to recommend it, and ought henceforth to be rejected as highly improper, and calculated, like that of *Goatsucker*, and many others equally ridiculous, to perpetuate that error from which it originated. The word *bastard*, among men, has its determinate meaning; but when applied to a whole species of birds, perfectly distinct from any other, originally deriving their peculiarities of form, manners, color, &c., from the common source of all created beings, and perpetuating them, by the usual laws of generation, or unmixed and independent as any other; is, to call it by no worse name, a gross absurdity. Should the reader be displeased with this, I beg leave to remind him, that, as the faithful historian of our feathered tribes, I must be allowed the liberty of vindicating them from every misrepresentation whatever, whether originating from ignorance or prejudice; and of allotting to each respective species, as far as I can distinguish, that rank and place in the great order of nature to which it is entitled." Mr. STRICKLAND would have retained the names *Sapsucker*, and *Bastard Oriole* (*Oriolus spurius*, LIN.) on the same principle that he would *Goatsucker*, *Hedge Sparrow*, &c. TRUTH, however, *will* prevail—vain are the presumptuous efforts of man to stifle her: as well might the hazy mists of a Summer morning attempt to arrest the progress of the rising sun. I am sorry to say, that SELBY in his excellent *British Ornithology*, has used the term

animadverted on above. He calls the *Squatarola cinerea* (Gray Plover, and *Pluvialis cinerea* of WILLUGHBY,) "Bastard Plover"—a singularly unfortunate appellation, for not only is the specific term "Bastard" incorrect, but also the generic name "Plover," that is to say, it is incorrect according to the system adopted by SELBY, in which the species does not rank in the genus *Pluver* (*Pluvialis*,) but in the genus *Squatarol* (*Squatarola*.) The names adopted by STEPHENS, in SHAW's *General Zoology*, are as correct as could be desired—"GRAY SQUATAROL, (*Squatarola cinerea*, CUV.)" The Golden *Pluver*, (*Pluvialis vividis*, WILL.) seems to me to be the type of the genus *Pluver*, or *Plover* as the word has been corrupted into. SELBY does not attempt to excuse the specific name *bastard*, but he offers the following apology for using the name *PLUVER*, which belongs to another genus :—"I have considered it most advisable not to let *generic* distinction (however necessary,) interfere with the English name *Pluver*, so long attached to this species; as my ambition has been, in the letter-press of the present work, to construct a *popular manual* of British Ornithology." This is not paying any great compliment to the understandings of the people, and I think that on further consideration, Mr. SELBY will own, that he has rated the "popular" intellect too low. It is rather hard to understand how exactitude and accuracy should render a work unpopular, but supposing even, for the sake of argument, that that

would be the inevitable consequence, still the satisfaction arising from having done all in one's power to forward the cause of science and truth, should amply recompence the author for loss of favor with the populace. WILSON did not stoop to such paltry means to gain popularity, and yet his work is one of the most popular which has ever appeared on Ornithology. After having misled the people, it is scarcely fair to blame them for those mistakes which have been confirmed by the scientific. And yet SELBY at vol. I, p. 199, wonders how the COMMON LOCUSTEL, *Locustella sibilans*, could ever have been called a LARK; the Locustel, however, is not more dissimilar from the Larks, than the Pinnoc (*Calamophilus*) is from the TITS (*Parus*,) and yet SELBY calls the Pinnoc a Tit! Consistency should at least be preserved.

I shall now give a few of AUDUBON's sentiments on the subject. Speaking of the inappropriateness of the name *Belted Kingfisher*, as applied to the *Alcedo alcyon*, he says:—"I should wish to call it, (the Belted Kingfisher,) as I think it ought to have been called, the *United States' Kingfisher*. My reason for this, will, I hope, become apparent to you, when I say that it is the only bird of its genus found upon the inland streams of the Union. Another reason of equal force may be adduced, which is that, although the males of all denominations have, from time immemorial, obtained the supremacy, in this particular case the term *Belted* applies only to the female, the male

being destitute of the belt or band by which she is distinguished." Let us here pause and examine, 1st, whether the original name calls for a change, and 2nd, whether the substitute proposed is admissible. I am unable to see why a species should not be distinguished by some peculiarity of the female as well as of the male: to say that the contrary has been the case from time immemorial, is no argument at all—nor is it worthy of a rational, and consequently, *improving* being. The only use of a specific name is to distinguish the species, and this distinguishing appellation can be founded with equal advantage on some peculiarity of either sex, though it would certainly be preferable if it related equally to both. Thus the specific name *Belted*, as applied to the *Alcedo alcyon*, ought not to be altered. Now let us examine the proposed specific name "United States." The reason given for favoring this name is that the *A. alcyon* "is the only bird of its genus found upon the inland streams of the Union." But how does Mr. AUDUBON know that this species is not found *out* of the United States? if it is, the name is no longer tenable. Or supposing that it is only found in the United States, who knows but that another species of Kingfisher may not in a few years be found in that country, which has hitherto escaped observation? Did our author never hear of such cases? assuredly he has, for he has related many such himself. In our own little island, which has been far more diligently searched than America,

such instances even now occur not unfrequently. Thus, 1st, the original name does not need a change; and 2nd, the proposed substitute is inadmissible. AUDUBON continues:—"But names, already given and received, whether apt or inapt, I am told, must not be meddled with. To this law I humbly submit, and so proceed, contenting myself with feeling assured that many names given to birds might, with much benefit to the student of nature, become the subjects of reform."—*Orn. Biogr.* vol. I, p. 394. Thus it seems that the student is to lose all the benefit of advantageous changes, simply because the professor has been *told* they must not take place! Thus we see the misdirected organs of Veneration and Imitation triumphing over Causality, and I may almost say Conscientiousness, for certainly it is unjust to deprive the student, without any adequate reason, of those aids, which the professor has it in his power to bestow. Happily, however, for his own reputation and the cause of science, AUDUBON has *not* generally suffered himself to be cramped and blindfolded by the authority of those who either through ignorance or prejudice were not fitted for advisers. I shall give a striking instance of this; it is well known that the *Aquila leucocephala* is usually called the "*Bald Eagle*:" WILSON says in relation to the specific name:—"The epithet *bald*, applied to this species, whose head is thickly covered with feathers, is equally improper and absurd with *Goatsucker*, &c. &c., bestowed on others; and seems to have been occasioned by the

white appearance on the head, when contrasted with the dark color of the rest of the plumage. The appellation, however, being now almost universal, is retained in the following pages." AUDUBON, however, throughout his splendid account of this bird, calls it the WHITEHEADED EAGLE; and says at the conclusion of the description:—"It is only necessary for me to add, that the name by which this bird is universally known in America is that of *Bald Eagle*, an erroneous denomination, as its head is as densely feathered as that of any other species, although its whiteness may have suggested the idea of its being bare." *Orn. Biogr.* vol. I, p. 169. Since AUDUBON has adopted the name Whiteheaded Eagle, almost all the naturalists who have mentioned this bird, have used it too,—another striking instance in addition to those before given in refutation of Mr. STRICKLAND's assertion that these "changes are certain never to be adopted." WILSON corrected many of the errors of his predecessors in nomenclature; AUDUBON has corrected several of WILSON's; succeeding Ornithologists will correct those of AUDUBON, till at last the Augean stable shall be thoroughly cleansed, and this notwithstanding the efforts of Mr. STRICKLAND and those of his stamp, to prevent it.

I shall now extract a passage or two from another, and if possible, still more delightful Ornithologist—MUDIE, which shows him to be evidently not of the "STRICKLAND school." Speaking of the Hedge

Dunnoc he says :—"There is but one British species of this genus a resident bird, and a very common and familiar one—the 'Hedge Sparrow,' 'Hedge Warbler,' or Dunnoc (*Accentor modularis*.) It is neither a Sparrow nor a Warbler, and it is certainly not the only 'dun-colored' bird in the country; so that Titling is the least exceptionable name, and it also partly expresses the common cry of the bird, which is *teet* sounded short." *Feath. Tribes*, vol. I, p. 286. This is written in the improving spirit, but I must just remark that the objection to Dunnoc, as the generic name, is very insufficient, for although the bird is certainly not the *only* dun-colored bird in the country, yet it is so *par excellence*: he might as well object to "Redbreast" as the generic name of *Rubecula*, because the Redstart (*Ruticilla*,) and the Coalhood (*Pirrula*) have as much or more red on the breast. Titling is by FLEMING used as the English generic name of *Anthus* (Pipit.) With regard to the REDEYED WHINLING (*Melizophilus provincialis*, LEACH) he says :—"The Dartford Warbler (*Silvia provincialis*) might, perhaps more accurately be called the 'Furze Warbler;' as it is not quite correct to name after one place in England, and that not the place where it is most frequently seen, a bird more abundant in Spain, Provence, and Italy, than in England. Though generally classed with the Warblers (*Silvia*,) and resembling them in some of its characters, it differs in others: and the points of difference are

certainly more numerous and at least not less striking than those of agreement. The Dartford Warbler is one of those birds of which the habits require to be more carefully studied; and when that has been done, and an arrangement of birds founded on their structure, haunts, and habits comes to be formed, *it will probably be found advisable to drop the name, both parts of which are calculated to mislead.*”—*Feath. Tribes*, vol. I, p. 308. Some have proposed to substitute *Wren* for Warbler, but this is still worse, for the bird is more dissimilar from *Anorthura* than *Silvia*. The name previously given, Redeyed Whinling, is one, I think, to which no one can object. Again MUDIE says :—“The Reed Bunting sometimes, though improperly, called the ‘Reed Sparrow,’ is a bird which has been confounded by authors, if not by observers, with another bird to which it has little other resemblance than their both inhabiting nearly the same places; (the Sedge Reedling.)” The Reed Bunting is almost invariably called by the common people “Reed Sparrow,” but an author who should adopt this incorrect name on that account would be much to blame. It is indeed true, as MUDIE remarks :—“Names that have no precise meaning may be used in any way; but error is always the consequence of an unskilful use of significant ones.” However Mr. STRICKLAND may argue for the mere *sound*, his attempts will be vain to prevent rational beings from inquiring into the *sense*. I shall here make another extract from the *Boy and*

the Birds: the Willow Warbler (*Silvia melodia*,) BLYTH,) is addressing the inquiring boy:—"I too am called a Wren; but have also several other very pretty names, not one of which I can pronounce properly, but *you* may, gentle youth, so you shall have them all, every one, vulgar and learned. In the common tongue, then, which is spoken by English boys and girls, I am Willow Wren, Yellow Wren, Hay bird, and Bee bird. In the Latin, I am alternately *Silvia trochilus*, *Cuculis trochilus*, and *Trochilus asilus*. It is a sad thing that the learned, at least, cannot agree a little better. I should like for instance to be known all over the world as *Silvia trochilus*. Why should I not? *Silvia!* there is something soft and pastoral in the very sound. It is music itself; and I flatter myself it expresses my character very well. But *Cuculis!* who ever heard of such a name for a pretty songster? it can hardly be uttered without choking. Do then, my kind friend, lend your aid. Call me, and write me down *Silvia trochilus*. It may seem of little importance; for a name, some may say, is nothing. *I cannot agree with them, for a name is a key, and sometimes the only one, that will unlock what we wish to lay open and examine.*" p. 92.

I think I have now said enough to convince every unprejudiced person (the prejudiced it would be useless to attempt to convince) not only of the erroneousness, but also of the mistakes and misconceptions to which a loose system of Nomenclature gives

rise; and how grievously it retards the progress of science. Surely, since there are already so many difficulties in the road to science, it is desirable to avoid adding to them—but how much better still to *lessen* their number, and thus instead of simply forbearing from injury, to do positive good. Because a person is not convinced at first of what I have attempted to prove, he need not despair of finally arriving at the truth; and, for the encouragement of such persons, I will state that I have reason to know that the writer of the excellent articles on nomenclature in the *Analyst*, vol. II, p. 238 and p. 419, (the latter of which I have in a preceding page extracted entire) was at one time as warmly opposed to improvement as Mr. STRICKLAND himself could desire: but though long deaf to reason, light at length broke in, and illumined what was before enveloped in the mists of prejudice and ignorance. A sense of the importance of the subject is becoming every day more general, and however some may oppose it, “a time must finally arrive,” in the words of Mr. BLYTH, “when a complete and thorough alteration will take place throughout Zoological nomenclature;” and the sooner that time comes, and the more heartily all concerned engage in it, the more sure and speedy will be the advance of the science.

Having thus proved by facts and arguments the superiority of correct over incorrect names, (it is a matter of astonishment how so simple a proposition could ever have been doubted) I shall now

attempt to explain the requisites of correct nomenclature. The generic names will first be considered, and then the specific. Every genus must have a generic name peculiar to itself. This rule is too frequently transgressed. For instance, the four genera, Warbler (*Silvia*,) Reedling (*Salicaria*,) Kinglet (*Regulus*,) and Whinling (*Melizophilus*,) were frequently confounded under the name WREN—the English appellation of the genus *Anorthura*, of which there is only one species found in Europe—the IVY WREN, (*Anorthura troglodites*, MORRIS.)* The name Finch again, has been applied to the COAL-HOOD (*Pirrola*,) to the FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa*,) to the BUNTING (*Emberiza*,) to the LONGSPUR (*Plectrophanes*,) and to the PETREL (*Thalassidroma*!) when, in fact, it belongs to the genus *Fringilla* only. Again, the name GALLINULE has been employed for the RAIL (*Rallus*,) the CRAKE (*Crex*,) and the ZAPERN (*Zapornia*,) whereas it belongs only to the genus *Gallinula*. These instances are sufficient to explain my meaning, and the inconvenience arising from this incorrect mode of naming has been before demonstrated. 2nd: the term *bird* should never be admitted as an ingredient in a name: this rule is also frequently transgressed. Among British birds, we hear of the “sheep-*bird*,” the “black-*bird*,” the “green-*bird*,” the “hay-*bird*,” and among foreign

* As far as I am aware, Mr. MORRIS gave this name, at least the first time I have seen it, was in his list of British Birds. RENNIE gave the generic name *Anorthura*.

birds—"red-bird," the "reed-bird," the "blue-bird," the "snow-bird," &c. How much better the following names designate the objects intended:—Amzel (*Pastor*,) Ouzel (*Merula*,) Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes*,) Warbler (*Silvia*;) Tanager (*Tanagra*,) Reed Hangnest (*Icterus agripennis*,) Blueback (*Sialia*,) Snow Finch (*Fringilla hyemalis*.) For further remarks on this subject see the *Analyst*, vol. II, p. 438. 3rd: two generic names must not be joined together to make one, as "Finch-Warbler," "Lark-Bunting," "Eagle-Owl," &c. How much better to call these birds Dunnoc, (*Accentor*,) Longspur (*Plectrophanes*,) and Toadeater (*Bubo*.) Another mode to be avoided is to join a generic and specific name, and use the illegitimate compound as a generic name; thus Bottle-Tit, Bull-Finch, Field-Wagtail, Gos-Hawk, &c., these genera are better designated thus:—Longtail (*Afedula*,) Coalhood (*Pirruia*,) Oatear (*Budytes*,) Gossuc (*Astur*.) This ridiculous plan of joining a generic and specific name together is also followed in scientific nomenclature as *Halicæetus albicilla*, *Aquila chrysaætus*, *Fringilla montifringilla*; are not the following names preferable?—*Ossifraga albicilla*, *Aquila aurea*, and *Fringilla montana*. So much for generic names, now we will consider the specific appellations. There are several kinds of specific names to be avoided: 1st: naming from the commonness of a species, as *Common Lark*, (*Alauda vulgaris*. WILL.;) *Common Starling*, (*Sturnus vulgaris*, LIN.;) *Common*

Crossbill, (*Crucirostra vulgaris*, STEPH:) instead of these I should recommend Sky Lark (*Alauda arvensis*, LIN.) Spotted Starling (*Sturnus varius*, MEYER, and Pippin Crossbill, (*Crucirostra malum*.) A striking instance of the inappropriateness of *Common* as a specific term is the Corn Bunting (*E. miliaria*, LIN.) usually called *Common* Bunting, a bird which can scarcely be met with in these parts. And even supposing a bird to be common throughout *Britain*, it may either be very scarce or not to be found at all in other countries. 2nd: the specific distinction should not be taken from the *size* of birds: as *Great* Snipe (*Scolopax major*, GMEL.) *Great* Lark (*Alauda magna*, WILS.) *Great* Tit, (*Parus major*, LIN.) *Little* Grebe (*Podiceps minor*, LATH.) *Lesser* Woodpecker, (*Picus minor*, LIN.) &c.; these birds might be called, the Solitary Snipe (*Scolopax solitarius*), the Crescent Starret* (*Sturella ludoviciana*), the Garden Tit (*Parus hortensis*), the River Grebe (*Podiceps fluviatilis*), and the Barred Woodpecker (*Picus virgatus*.) 3rd: specific names should not be taken from some genus which the species is supposed to resemble, as Kestrel-like Falcon, (*Falco tinnunculoides*) Rail-like Crane, (*Crex ralloides*.) 4th: the name of a country in which a bird is found should not be given as a distinctive appellation, as *Bohemian* Waxwing (*Bombicilla Bohemica*, BRIS.) *European* Dipper (*Cinclus Europeus*, STEPH.)

* See SWAINSON'S *Northern Zoology*, part II, p. 282.

Carolina Waxwing (*Bombicilla Carolinensis*, BRIS.) Kentish Pluver (*Pluvialis Cantanicus*.) The following names are preferable:—Hawthorn Waxwing (*Bombicilla cratægus*,) the Bank Dipper (*Cinclus rupestris*,) the Cedar Waxwing (*Bombicilla cedrus*,) Shingle Pluver (*Pluvialis littoralis*.) When speaking of the Belted Kingfisher, I have detailed the objections to this method of naming after countries, so that I need not repeat them here. 5th, and last, the names of men should not be made the distinguishing epithets of species, as *Bullock's* Petrel (*Thalassidroma Bullockii*, FLEM,) *Townsend's* Bunting (*Emberiza Townsendia*,) Macgillivray's Finch (*Fringilla Macgillivrayi*,) Richard's Lavroc (*Coridala Richardi*,) &c. These birds might be named:—Forktailed Petrel (*Thalassidroma furcata*,) the Dusky Bunting (*E. mustelina*,) the Marsh Finch (*Fringilla palustris*,) and the Tawny Lavroc* (*Coridala fusca*.) I shall quote some pertinent remarks on this mode of naming from No. XII, of the *Field Naturalist's Magazine*:—"It should be the aim of every nomenclator to bestow only such names upon animals, as will express the peculiar forms, habits, &c., of the species to which they respectively apply; if they fail in this particular, scientific names are but of little worth. This important point, however, is unfortunately too much disregarded, for it has long been the absurd

* See No. XI, of the *Analyst* (vol. II, p. 306.) Many excellent names are proposed in this article. Also see No. XIII.

fashion to make the specific, and even some of the generic names, bear allusion to men. What benefit does a student derive from knowing that there are certain species, bearing such names as *Clarkella*, *Brownella*, *Harrisella*, *Smithella*, and the like terms, which only serve to glorify those whose paltry conceited minds are gratified at the idea of having obtained a little celebrity for themselves, by the shortest and easiest method.”—vol. I, p. 522. Mr. JENNINGS in his *Ornithologia*, has also animadverted on the same method:—“Too often the name of the *discoverer* of a bird is applied to it as a specific term, instead of having given to it that which shall inform us concerning its peculiar shape, color, or other qualities. This misapplied nomenclature has been noticed in page 399: and as it appears to be gaining ground in Ornithology, it cannot on this account be too strongly deprecated. Even the specific name of *place*, much less of *person*, is not, in Natural History, sufficiently discriminative, and should be avoided.” And again:—“It is to be regretted that those to whom the opportunity is given of bestowing names do not bestow them with more scientific discrimination. How much soever we may respect the names of COOK and BANKS, surely this bird (“Cook’s Cocatoo,”) might have a much more appropriate and discriminating *specific* term applied to it; for example, the Black Coccateo (*Psittacus niger*;) or, if this name be already engaged, some other, equally discriminating and appropriate, should

be given. In *science*, the practice of distinguishing *persons* rather than *facts* ought to be discarded. It was this mode of giving names that contributed to retard and obscure, for ages, the science of chemistry."—p. 399. There are also several other modes of naming which are objectionable; as making the English generic name, the Latin specific one, as—Common Avoset, (*Recurvirostra Avosetta*;) the Black Cormorant, *Carbo Cormoranus*; &c. Why not *Avosetta atricapilla*, and *Cormoranus carbo*. Diminutives should likewise be avoided, as *Milvulus* (from *Milvus*, the genus KITE,) *Laniellus*, (from *Lanius*, genus SHRIKE,) &c. Then again the generic and specific name should not have the same meaning, as, *Caryocatactes Nucifraga*, *Erythaca Rubecula*, *Phenicura Ruticilla*, *Machetes pugnax*; the specific and generic terms of each of these birds have here the same meaning conveyed in different languages; the following names are more consistent with sound nomenclature;—*Nucifraga punctata*, *Rubecula familiaris*, *Ruticilla lusciniæ*,* *Machetes variabilis*. Greek names should be avoided as much

* The epithet *Lusciniæ*, or "mournful," is a very applicable specific term for the Common Redstart: and this characteristic is well portrayed by MURDIE: "Its song is sweet though plaintive, and has some resemblance to that of the Nightingale (*Philomela*,) only very inferior in compass and power, and audible only at a short distance. The song is uttered from the perch, on a ruin, a tall post, the trunk of a blasted tree, or some other situation from which it can see around it; and one who has heard the plaintive strain of the Redstart from the top of a ruined abbey or crumbling fortalice, would be inclined to call it the bird of decay, rather than the 'Wall Nightingale,' as BUFFON did."

as possible, both as being generally less euphonic and also as they destroy the uniformity. A generic character should not be made the foundation of a specific name. It is a generic character of the genus Crossbill (*Crucirostra*, MEYER) to have the mandibles crossed, notwithstanding which, TEMMINK and other Zoologists have called the Common Crossbill—" *Loxia curvirostra*," as if *curvirostra* would not equally apply to *every* species of Crossbill. LINNEUS also called it *L. curvirostra*, and according to his system the name was correct, for the Common Crossbill (the only species with which he was acquainted) was placed in his extensive genus Grosbeak, (*Loxia*) and thus *curvirostra* served to distinguish the species from the others: PENNANT, who followed this arrangement, called the bird the Cross-billed Grosbeak (*L. curvirostra*.) WILSON, however, saw the absurdity of this arrangement, and comments on it as follows:—"Hitherto this bird* has, as usual, been considered a mere variety of the European species; though differing from it in several respects, and being nearly one-third less, and although the singular conformation of the bill of these birds and their peculiarity of manners are strikingly different from the Grosbeaks, yet many, disregarding these plain and obvious discriminations,

* WILSON is here describing the bird he calls the "American Crossbill, *Crucirostra Americana*;" this species is now generally considered identical with the Pipin Crossbill (*Crucirostra malum*, WOOD; *Crucirostra vulgaris*, of STEPHENS.)

still continue to consider them as belonging to the genus *Loxia*; as if the particular structure of the bill should in all cases but this, be the criterion by which to judge of a species; or perhaps, conceiving themselves the wiser of the two, they have thought proper to associate together what nature has, in the most pointed manner, placed apart. In separating these birds, therefore, from the Grosbeaks, and classing them as a family [genus] by themselves, *substituting the specific for the generic appellations*, I have only followed the steps and dictates of that great original, whose arrangements ought never to be disregarded by any who would faithfully copy her."—*Amer. Orn.* vol. IV, p. 44. The term *Loxia* has been applied to many genera, a dozen at least, so that I think it ought to be entirely abandoned, especially as it is very vague and insignificant, being derived from a Greek word signifying *curved*. I refer the reader to the *Magazine of Natural History*, vol. VII, p. 593, for further remarks on this name. *Elanus furcatus* is another instance of a specific name being founded on a generic character: *furcatus* applies to every species of Forktail (*Elanus*.) To call the Bank Dipper—*Cinclus aquaticus*, is also objectionable, because every species of Dipper equally frequents the water. The same may be said of the names, *Rallus aquaticus*, *Turdus musicus*, *Silvia silvicola*, *Motacilla lotor*, *Neophron percnopterus*, &c. These species might be called *Cinclus rupestris*, *Rallus serica*, *Turdus hortensis*, *Silvia*

sibilans, *Motacilla maculosa*, *Neophron alpina*. Some of these, I am aware, may apply to other species, but not so eminently as those I have discarded. Indeed, there is perhaps not one of the objectionable modes I have enumerated, that I have been able entirely to avoid, but, at any rate, I have not employed them profusely as is done by several naturalists who should set a better example. I should also mention that several generic names as *Curruca*, *Charadrius*, *Mormon*, &c., have been discarded for the genera they are generally applied to, and others, as *Ficedula*, *Pluvialis*, *Puffinus*, &c., have been used in their stead. The reason for the first alteration I shall give in the words of BLYTH:—"The best and most appropriate name that has hitherto been applied to the fruit-eating genus of the Warbler-Family, (*Silviadæ*) is the term *Ficedula* applied by ALDROVAND to the Fauvets. The appellation *Curruca* (derived from the Latin word *curro*, to run,) cannot with propriety be affixed to any genus of the Warbler-family, inasmuch as they all move forward by hopping; it would therefore, I think, be better to reject altogether the term *Curruca*, as objectionable and inappropriate, and to consider the Fauvets as constituting the genus *Ficedula*." vol. I, p. 308. SELBY says he adopts the name *Cataractes* for the genus Skua, in preference to TEMMINK's name *Lestris*, on account of the priority of the former: then why not adopt *Ficedula* and *Pluvialis*, which have not only the claim of priority, but also of accuracy and

euphony. *Cateractes* is, I think, not near so expressive a name as applied to the Skuas as *Lestris*, and therefore I have adopted the latter. I had nearly omitted one kind of specific names, and it is so very obviously bad, that it is scarce worth mentioning:—giving the appellation *ferus* and “wild.” Thus we have the *Wild Swan* (*Cygnus ferus*,) the *Tame Swan* (*Cygnus olor*,) the *Wild Goose* (*Anser ferus*,) the *Wild Duck* (*Anas boschas*, &c. How much better it would be to call these birds Whistling Swan (*Cygnus refus*,*) Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*,) Grayleg Goose (*Anser segetum*,) (the *A. palustris* is also sometimes called *Anser ferus* :) the Ring Duck (*Anas boschas*,) &c. If the tame birds are intended to be spoken of in Ornithological works, write, the “domesticated Whistling Swan,” the “tame Grayleg Goose,” the “wild Ring Duck,” &c. Domestication does not alter the species, therefore the specific name should not be made dependent on that circumstance.

With regard to the names of Families, I have often given more than one name to each Family. The reason of this is as follows. The names of the Families in Ornithology are made by adding *dæ* to the name of the typical genus; that is, the genus which exhibits, united in itself, the greatest number

* BECHSTEIN, when speaking of this species, says:—“Instead of the common name, *tame Swan*, I prefer that of *Mute Swan*, in order to distinguish this from the Whistling Swan, also called the *Wild Swan*, but improperly, for in Russia it is more common to have that tamed than the one under notice.”

of the peculiarities observable in the family. Thus *Falco* is the typical genus of the diurnal birds of prey; that family is consequently termed *Falconidæ*. But it sometimes happens that Naturalists cannot agree as to which is the typical family: thus SELBY thinks that *Fringilla* is typical of the family in which that genus is found—he therefore calls the family the Finch-family and *Fringillidæ*. In the *Cycl. Nat. Hist.*, the writer thinks that *Carduelis* is the typical genus—the family, according to this, must be called the Goldwing-family and *Carduelidæ*. There is difference of opinion again with regard to which is the typical genus of the *Silviadæ*, some conjecturing it to be *Ficedula* (called accordingly *Ficedulidæ*) others saying *Regulus* (called accordingly *Regulidæ*) and yet others pronounce *Silvia* to be the type of the Family; they therefore call the family the Warbler-family and *Silviadæ*. I am inclined to agree with the latter. The genus Swallow (*Hirundo*) is usually taken as a typical genus; the family is consequently called the Swallow-family and *Hirundinidæ*: Mr. BLYTH, however, in the *Magazine of Natural History*, (vol. VII, p. 346,) suggests the Swift (*Cypselus*) to be the typical genus, the family he accordingly names the “Swift-family (*Cypselidæ*.”) Some authors adopt the plan of changing the generic name from one genus to another, in order to keep the same family name as was first in use, but this is productive of much confusion and not one counterbalancing advantage.

I have now enumerated the greater number of objectionable methods in naming animals, and most of them are, I am happy to perceive, far less frequently used than they were formerly. But, it may be said, although a name is wrong, yet if change is once allowed, the privilege will soon be abused. And what human privilege is there against which this objection cannot be brought? Study, exercise, recreation, nay, even food and sleep, would be alike denied us, if judged from their effects in excess. It is clear that Mr. STRICKLAND has had the evil effects of the *excess* in his mind, and thence condemns the whole practice. Indeed he expressly says in one part, "from the *excess* of this practice," &c., and thence proceeds to denounce alteration altogether. But the anti-reformers by grasping at too much, lose all, for when a proposition is found to be unsound in part, the whole is apt to be rejected. Thus, any one who did not think much on the subject, seeing how absurd the affirmation of Mr. STRICKLAND is, would be apt to disregard it altogether.

With a view, then, of setting the subject on a firmer basis, I should propose a few tests by which to try names, which, if they will stand the trial, no one has a right to alter, but on the contrary, if they will not, any one may alter them. Thus with regard to specific names: 1st: they must be consistent with truth: 2nd: they must not be taken from the name of a person: 3rd: they must not be taken from the name of a country, or from a generic character; these however perhaps come under the 1st.

Next concerning generic names: 1st: if they have any meaning, it must be consistent with truth: 2nd: it must not be a compound of a generic and specific name. These are perhaps quite enough, and surely they are simple enough. These laws have frequently been transgressed, and that they have been so, is chiefly to be attributed to the blindness of these, who, like Mr. STRICKLAND, would proscribe reform altogether. This short-sightedness would be productive of a two-fold evil—1st: it would render nomenclators careless in the names they bestowed, for, they would say, it has been argued that no one has a right to alter names once given whether true or erroneous; and 2nd: it would lead every one to change as they chose, whether with reason or not, for, seeing that the arguments of the STRICKLAND school were untenable—as there must be *some* reform,—they would disregard them entirely.

Several of our greatest naturalists have made changes without reason: thus Mr. SWAINSON, has changed the generic name of the Redbreast from *Rubecula* to *Erythaca*: this neither he nor any one else has any right to do, for there is no objection to the former name, and it was used by WILLUGHBY, BRISSON, and other old authors. The same may be said of *Ruticilla* which SWAINSON, with equal little right, altered to *Phenicura*. If once *these* sort of changes creep in, it is time to fear for the welfare of the science, but it would be absurd to condemn the system altogether because excess was sometimes apparent. RENNIE, following the example of his

superiors, has made changes which no law of science can justify, as for *Salicaria* he has substituted *Ripæcola*, for *Rubecula*, *Rhondella*; for *Silvia*, *Trochilus*,* &c., and thus he formed a nomenclature for his own use, as it were, for of course, no one would follow him.

It has frequently been proposed of late, by different naturalists, that there should be a meeting of Naturalists to create a fixed Nomenclature, but I think the mode I have now sketched, would supersede the necessity of that, in the carrying into practice of which there are so many obstacles, as to render the project for some time to come, if not always, impracticable. The sooner the scientific world can come to some such agreement, the sooner will the path to this interesting department be divested of half its difficulties, and the fewer the difficulties, the more aspirants will there be, and the speedier will be the progress of the science. By an over great anxiety to do away with difficulties, we often increase them a thousand-fold, and thus it has been with the STRICKLAND school. Shrinking as they do from a small difficulty, they have rendered it ten times more formidable, but their error having now been exposed, we have hopes they will perform the only act capable of recalling the mischief they have perpetrated—acknowledge they have been in the wrong, and in future, with all true lovers of their species, adopt the motto, ONWARD.

* The worthy professor seems to be unaware that *Trochilus* is the latin generic name for the Colibrees or Humming-birds.

REVIEWS

OF

ORNITHOLOGICAL WORKS.

General Ornithology : all the Birds hitherto known being reduced into a method suitable to their natures, and accurately described. By FRANCIS WILLUGHBY, Esq. Translated by JOHN RAY, F.R.S. Folio. 1678.

It seems almost incredible that an individual with so short a life as Mr. WILLUGHBY had, and living, moreover, when Ornithology was in so comparatively backward a state, could collect so large a mass of *authentic* information, so well arranged, as is to be found in the volume before us. The mystery is however unravelled by the following remark of his biographer, Mr. RAY:—"He was from his childhood addicted to study, and ever since he came to the use of reason, so great a husband of his time, as not willingly to lose or let slip unoccupied the least fragment of it, detesting no vice more than Idleness, which he looked upon as the Parent and Nurse of almost all others. Nay, so excessive was he in the prosecution of his studies and other employments without any intermission or diversion, that most of his friends were of opinion he did much weaken his body, and impair his health, by his

incessant labors, and perpetual intention of mind upon business." Having a natural talent for Zoology, he, as may be supposed, gained great proficiency therein, and also in other pursuits, which is thus related by RAY:—"He attained very good skill in all parts of learning, and particularly got a deep insight into those sciences which are most abstruse and impervious to vulgar capacities, I mean the most subtle parts of the mathematics. Of his skill in Natural Philosophy, chiefly the History of Animals, (Birds, Beasts, Fishes, and Insects,) I shall say no more at present, but that it hath not yet been my hap to meet with any man either in England or beyond the seas of so general and comprehensive knowledge therein." WILLUGHBY'S Ornithological work contains an account of all the birds known in the time of the author, and may be regarded as an epitome of the science as it then was. A great part of the descriptions often consist in an account of the plumage, and in this he was perhaps too minute, though it must be owned that this is a fault on the right side: RAY has remarked on this:—"Now though I cannot but commend his diligence, yet I must confess that in describing the colours of each single feather he sometimes seems to me to be too scrupulous and particular; partly because Nature doth not in all Individuals (perhaps not in any two) observe exactly the same spots or strokes, partly because it is very difficult so to word descriptions of this sort as to render them intelligible: *Yet dared*

I not to omit or alter anything." It is to be wished that a modern professor had been as modest and discreet in his edition of the ornithological work of one of our first Ornithologists.

WILLUGHBY having ransacked Europe in search of his favorite objects, designed to visit America, which design, and the manner in which it was frustrated, shall be related in RAY's own words:—"Our author having made so good progress in this Work, that few of our European Animals described by others had escaped his view; that he might (as far as in him lay) perfect the *History of Animals*, he designed a voyage into the New World, but lived not to undertake it. For about the beginning of June, in the year 1672, being seized with a Pleurisy, which terminated in that kind of Fever, Physicians call, Catarrhalis, within less than a month after he took his bed, on the third of July in the thirty-seventh year of his age he departed this life to the immense grief of his Friends and all good men that knew him, and the great loss of the Commonwealth in general." WILLUGHBY's great modesty is well illustrated by his reluctance to allow what he had written to be published, as related in the following passage of RAY:—"Viewing his Manuscripts, after his Death, I found the several Animals in every kind, both Birds, Beasts, Fishes, and Insects digested into a Method of his own contriving, but few of their Descriptions and Histories so full and perfect as he intended them; which he was so

sensible of, that when I asked him upon his death-bed, whether it was his pleasure they should be published, he answered, that he did not desire it, nor thought them so considerable as to deserve it, or somewhat to that purpose, for the very words I do not well remember, though he confessed there were in them some new and pretty observations about Insects. But, considering that the publication of them might conduce somewhat, 1st, to the illustration of God's glory, by exciting men to take notice of, and admire his infinite power and wisdom displaying themselves in the creation of so many Species of Animals; and 2nd, to the assistance and ease of those who addict themselves to this most pleasant, and no less useful part of Philosophy; and 3rd, also to the honour of our Nation, in making it appear that no part of real knowledge is wholly balked and neglected by us, (he not contradicting) I resolved to publish them, and first took in hand the Ornithology."

I have been thus particular in presenting the reader with facts concerning this work, on account of the erroneous notions which have till lately, and do even yet prevail as to who its author was. The authorship has been generally ascribed to RAY—with what justice the foregoing extracts will show. Hear what SWAINSON says on the subject:—"WILLUGHBY was the most accomplished zoologist of this or any other country; for all the honor that has been given to RAY, so far as concerns systematic

zoology, belongs exclusively to him. He alone is the author of that system which both RAY and LINNEUS took for their guide, which was not improved by the former, or confessed by the latter.”—*System of Nature*, vol I, p. 27. The erroneous notion that RAY wrote this volume seems to have had its origin in the fact of that author having translated the manuscripts from the Latin, but he can no more on that account be called the author of the *General Ornithology*, than MACMURTRIE can be called the author of the *Regne Animal*. RAY, it is true, added a few descriptions, but even these were not his, as he himself declares in the following passage:—“But because Mr. WILLUGHBY (though sparing neither pains nor cost) could not procure, and consequently did not describe all sorts of Birds,” (every species of bird,) “to perfect the Work, I have added the Descriptions and Histories of those that were wanting, out of GESNER, ALDROVAND, BELLON, MARGRAVE, CLUSIUS, HERMANDEZ, BONTIUS, WORMIUS, and PISO; disposing each kind, as near as I could, in its proper place.” And not only has WILLUGHBY been defrauded of his due with regard to the work, but also the names given by him been ascribed to more modern authors. I will give a few examples: *Perdix cinerea*, *Turdus viscivorus*, *T. pilaris*, *T. iliacus*, *Merula vulgaris*, *M. torquata*, *Alauda vulgaris*, *Motacilla alba*, *M. flava*, *Parus caudatus*, *Coccothraustes vulgaris*, *Linaria montana*, *Accipiter palumbarius*, &c., &c.,

were all given by WILLUGHBY, but are by modern Ornithologists most unfairly ascribed to RAY, LINNEUS, LATHAM, FLEMING, &c. In conclusion I may just mention the "most elegant Figures, nearly resembling the live Birds, engraven in LXXVIII Copper Plates," which are thus blazoned forth in red type in the title page. With regard to this department RAY says:—"The Gravers we employed, though they were very good workmen, yet in many Sculptures they have not satisfied me. For I being at a great distance from London, and all advices and directions necessarily passing by Letter, sometimes through haste mistook my directions, sometimes through weariness and impatience of long writing, sent not so clear and full instructions as were requisite. Notwithstanding, the Figures, such as they are, take them altogether, they are the best and truest, that is, most like the live Birds, of any hitherto engraven in Brass." If this is really the case, the art of drawing and engraving must indeed have been in a desperately low state, for here are a parcel of the vilest—caricatures I was going to say, but they have not even that merit—libels on Nature I should call them—a family of cripples, as AUDUBON would say: and with a few exceptions, as the Turkey and the Tumbler Pigeon, they have not even any traces of the character of the originals. They are however valuable as showing the vast strides which have since been made in advancing from the deplorable state in which this

useful and elegant art appears to have been two centuries ago. As everything connected with so illustrious an Ornithologist as the author of the *General Ornithology* is invested with interest, I shall conclude with RAY's account of his parentage:—"FRANCIS WILLUGHBY was the only son of Sir FRANCIS WILLUGHBY, Knight, descended of two very ancient families, both WILLUGHBY's, the one Honourable, viz. that of Eresby in Lincolnshire, by the Father's side; the other Worshipful, viz. that of WILLUGHBY on the Wolds in Nottinghamshire, by the Mother's. His Mother was the Lady CASSANDRA, Daughter to the Right Honourable the Earl of Londonderry."

A Natural History of Uncommon Birds; and some other rare and undescribed Animals: Exhibited in Three Hundred and Sixty Copper Plates. By GEORGE EDWARDS, 7 vols. quarto. 1750-60.

Science, Classification, and Animal Biography are alike wanting in these volumes, for "honest GEORGE EDWARDS," has presented us with little more than the representations of each of the animals, together with a description of their appearance—the title, it is thus evident, is a misnomer. The Plates are all etched by himself, from his own "Designs copied immediately from Nature, and curiously colored after life." These are mostly struck off in a very spirited style, and almost all the figures have an appearance of life, which can-

not be said of many, perhaps the greater part of later attempts of the kind. His style is rather rough, and thus it is better adapted for quadrupeds than for birds; some of the former, as the Cavy, the Squirrel, &c., are very admirably executed. Being mostly from old museum specimens, they have many of them a faded appearance, which would have been avoided had they been fresh from their native haunts. The work is altogether a very valuable acquisition to the Ornithologist, and contains some interesting reading. The author, in order to make his work useful to foreigners, has given all the letter-press in French as well as in English.

British Zoology: being an account of all the animals hitherto discovered in Britain: by THOMAS PENNANT, Esq. A New Edition in four vols. 1812.

PENNANT has always been a popular author, and the *British Zoology* displays no small portion of that refined taste and classical research which gained him that popularity. It must indeed have been a valuable acquisition to the Zoologist, when it first appeared, (the preface to the first edition is dated March 1st, 1776,) for though little is to be gained by a perusal of its pages now, yet at that time it may almost be said to have formed an epitome of all then known of the subject. It is a work which will long rank high in the estimation of the Zoological amateur. PENNANT was born June 14th, 1726, and died December 16th, 1798.

A History of the Earth and Animated Nature : by OLIVER GOLDSMITH. A New Edition in six vols. Edited by WILLIAM TURTON, M.D. 1816.

IF JOHNSON'S prophecy that GOLDSMITH would make his *Natural History* as *interesting* as a fairy tale has been fulfilled, it may also be added that he has made it almost as *fanciful* as one. He tells us in his preface, that his first idea was to give a translation of PLINY'S *Natural History*, but, on the appearance of BUFFON'S work, he dropped this intention, and wrote a work of his own. This is much to be regretted. A translation of PLINY (to the shame of British literature be it spoken, we have only one, that of HOLLAND) would have been truly valuable, as unsealing to the British Zoologist that curious medley of truth and fiction, superstition and eloquence; for very few, of course, can read it in the original. However, the work before us is elegantly written, and although no dependence can be placed on the descriptions, it will yet afford amusement for those who read rather for pleasure than instruction. It does not trouble the reader with minute descriptions of plumage, and perhaps it is not the worse for this: "In fact," as the author himself observes, "the colors of these birds [foreign Shrikes] which is all we know of them would afford the reader but small entertainment in the enumeration. Nothing can be more easy than to fill volumes with the different shades of a bird's plumage; but these accounts are written with more pleasure than they

are read; and a single glance at a good plate or a picture imprints a juster idea than a volume would convey.”—vol. IV, p. 105. What will the Ornithologist think of the following passage—“There is still another species of Butcher-bird or Shrike less than either of the former [the Gray Shrike and the Redbacked Shrike] found in the marshes near London. This too is a bird of prey, although not much bigger than a Tit, an evident proof that an animal’s courage does not depend upon its size.” The bird here alluded to is evidently the Bearded Tit (*Parus biarmicus*, LIN.)—the Bearded Pinnoc (*Calamophilus biarmicus*, LEACH) of modern Ornithologists. This is one of the most elegant and most harmless of our native birds, and so far from feeding on other birds is remarkably affectionate and gentle towards them. To illustrate this we shall make a short quotation from an account written by one well acquainted with them:—“Bearded Pinnocs have a remarkable habit of scratching each other’s polls in the manner of Parrots; and when in an aviary, without a companion of their own species, will frequently go up to other birds, and presenting the poll to them, seem to implore them to perform the kind office. I have witnessed this repeatedly, and have even seen its desire gratified by birds of very different natures; as the Alder Goldwing (*Carduelis spinus*, CUV.) and the Mountain Linnet (*Linaria montana*, WILL.) Among themselves they are doing this continually. I hardly

remember having noticed any bird so remarkably fond of society as this species. A fine male, which I long kept in confinement, in a large cage, together with a variety of other small birds, generally passed his time on the higher perches, where, if left alone by the others, even for a moment, he raised a most pitiful outcry, endeavouring by every means in his power to call them up; and then sometimes, when all his efforts were unavailing, and he could brook solitude no longer, he would descend, and strut among his companions, chuckling with pleasure at being again in their society." Having thus duly cleared this elegant bird from the hasty calumny heedlessly brought against him, we dismiss GOLD-SMITH's *Animated Nature*, with a caution to the reader that he take heed how he puts faith in the statements of the author, who, like LECLERC, Count of Buffon, is more solicitous about elegance of diction than accuracy of observation.

Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne; by GILBERT WHITE. A New Edition, edited by JAMES RENNIE: with Notes by several Eminent Naturalists, and an enlargement of the Naturalist's Calendar. 8vo. 1833. 16s.

So well known and highly valued a work as the *Natural History of Selborne*, it would be almost superfluous to eulogise, and as superfluous to criticise. SWAINSON takes to himself the merit of having been the first to "bring it under the notice of the present generation," and certainly he could scarce

have selected a better work on which to bestow his commendations. The author is a field naturalist; he observes facts, notes them down, and there leaves them, making no attempt at philosophic induction; but still the work will excite a spirit of inquiry, and prompt the thoughtless to think, by giving an interest to what would to the heedless appear dull and uninteresting. The first edition appeared in 1788, and since that, the work has appeared in an endless variety of forms, according to the fancies of their respective editors. In 1813 a quarto edition was published, price £2. 12s. 6d. in boards. This is a very bulky book, with meadows of margins: another edition appeared in 1825, in 2 vols., in 1832 one edited by Sir WILLIAM JARDINE, price 6s., another by BROWN, price 3s. 6d. The Antiquities, which form not the least interesting part of the work, are omitted in these editions, and thus they are incomplete. The edition, the title of which is placed above, is the most complete, and the most beautifully got up of those with which I am acquainted. It contains numerous and copious notes, among which those of HERBERT and SWEET are conspicuous for interest and novelty. WHITE was born July 18th, 1720, and died June 26th, 1793. We understand that Mr. BLYTH is preparing notes for a new edition. We think it would be far preferable to throw the notes into a supplement instead of breaking the current of the text by marginal notes.

A History of British Birds, by THOMAS BEWICK, 2 vols. 8vo. £1. 16s. 7th edition, 1832.

THE preface to the first edition of this admirable work is dated September, 1797, and it would be curious to compare that edition with the reprint of 1832. The 6th edition appeared in 1826, and this was the last which its venerable author lived to give. It is to be wished that BEWICK had followed the plan of other authors of giving a new preface to each succeeding edition, each dated; for we should in that way be enabled to judge what improvements had been made in each, and also the distance of time at which each had appeared. The chief merit of the work, as most of our readers are probably aware, consists in the wood-cuts; the letter-press however is also pretty fair on the whole, and very interesting too, compared with that of EDWARDS or LEWIN; those writers gave the husk, our present author adds a sprinkling of the grain. The only account of BEWICK, so far as we are aware, is that by Mr. DOVASTON, published in vols. I, II, and III, of LOUDON'S *Magazine of Natural History*: we shall subjoin some of the remarks of this spirited and delightful writer:—"I now, in this hasty, feeble, and divaricated biographical sketch, approach the great and favourite work of my admired friend, *The History of British Birds*. The first volume of this all-delighting work was published in 1797, jointly by BIELBY and BEWICK, but was afterwards continued by BEWICK alone, some disputes having arisen,

which I need not re-kindle here, being determined not to make, as I am deeply grieved to see, your pages, Sir, a vehicle for the records of altercation. This beautiful, accurate, animated, and (I may really add) wonderful production, having passed through six editions, each of very numerous impressions, is now universally known and admired. Open the work where ye will, only look at the bird, his attitude, his eye,—is he not alive? I actually and ardently aver that I have gazed till I have really imagined motion, ay, color! Look at the Ouzel; is he not just about to stoop for his hurried evening bustle of alarm? do ye not (in the still and fine ear of imagination, your mind's ear) keenly catch his rapid *clink, clink, clink*? See the alert Wren, with cocked tail, just a-stoop for another flurring flight, still wriggling, all a song, with her *kiss, kiss, kiss churee, kiss, kiss*. Look at the clean, peeping, gliding, Willow Warbler, about to pick an insect amid the green silk leaves, with her few and feeble liquid notes. An the Dipper have not a brown amber cast on his back, I'm a peppercorn, yea, a brewer's horse. Do, now, repose your eye on the Kingfisher; an he be not alternately green and blue, there's no purchase in money. Wonder (for, in honest sooth, ye well may,) at the mothiness of the Owls, the sleekness of the Falcons, the plumpness of the Ducks, the neatness of the Larks, and of the Wagtails. Each bird, too, has his character most physiognomically marked. The

honest inoffensive Ring Pigeon; the work-jobbing Nuthatch, the poet Blackcap: the parson Crow; the gay-crested silken councillor Waxwing; and the cunning, rogue-attorney, Pie; though I am sorry to libel the poor birds. The moral habits of each are as distinctly marked as had he painted portraits of individuals for LAVATER. Had he done no more than *draw* the outlines of these figures on paper, it would have ranked him among the most happy of draughtsmen; but to have transferred these to wood, in the finest lines of black and white, to have given light, shade, and almost relief, is beyond all praise, but that of the silent and admiring mind." In this warm eulogy, Mr. DAVASTON, has not always, we think, been very fortunate in his instances of the woodcuts. The Wren (*Anorthura*) always appeared to us as amongst the less fortunate efforts of BEWICK's pencil, being much too large and thick. The Kingfisher and Dipper are open to the same charge. There are also others executed in an inferior style, having probably, as Rusticus supposes, been copied from specimens stuffed by one of the barbarian bird-stuffers of the last century. As instances may be mentioned, the Hedge Dunnoc, the Redeyed Whinling, the Bearded Pinnoc, the Goldcrested Kinglet, the Hedge Warbler, the Gray Wagtail, the Yellow Bunting, the Garden Linnet, the Whitethroated Fauvet, the Wall Redstart, the Marsh Reedling, the Blue Tit, the Barred Woodpecker, and some others, which it is a pity the

author did not alter: the Barred Woodpecker is especially bad: it looks as if cut out of paste-board. All these are heedlessly copied in other works as readily as those which are good. I may also mention the Pine Thickbill (*Densirostra enucleator*) and the Tawny Lavroc (*Coridalla fusca*) as unworthy the name of BEWICK. A few have been executed by Miss TREVELYAN: the Alpine Abern is especially creditable to her talent in this line. Among the water birds I have detected only two failures—the Common Gull, and the Forktailed Petrel. In the present (7th) edition we are glad to find that the supplement, addenda, &c., have been incorporated. There are likewise fourteen spirited woodcuts of foreign birds at the end, which are so beautifully executed, that it makes us regret their author did not include foreign birds as subjects for his pencil. BEWICK was born August 12th, 1753, and died November 8th, 1828.

The Birds of Britain, systematically arranged, accurately engraved, and painted from Nature; also their eggs the whole accompanied by the natural history of each species: by WILLIAM LEWIN, 4 vols. 4to. 1795-1809.

THE "Natural History of species," professing to be "from upwards of twenty years observation in the field of Nature," are little more than descriptions of feathers, together with two or three meagre notes on the habits: we shall subjoin a fair sample, selecting that merry little flutterer the Blue Tit;

which our eloquent and observant author describes as follows:—

Order III, Genus XII, Tit.

Species V, Blue Tit.

Plate CXXI.

Parus cæruleus. LIN. *Syst.* v. I, p. 341.

Mesange bleue. BRIS. *Orn.* v. III, p. 544.

“This species is somewhat larger than the preceding [the Marsh Tit.] The bill is short and blackish; the crown of the head blue: the forehead and side of the head white, the latter bounded underneath by a black line: a black line also passes from the bill through the eye: the back is of a yellowish green: the under parts of the body yellow: the wings and tail blue; the former marked transversely with a white bar; the legs lead color.

“This bird is very common, and frequently seen in our orchards and gardens, busily employed in picking off the buds from the trees in search of insects. It makes its nest in the holes of walls or trees, lining it with feathers, and laying a number of white eggs faintly spotted with red, sometimes as far as twelve.”

Could not “upwards of twenty years laborious application,” and “original observation of the author and his sons,” and a reference to “the best writers on the subject,” furnish a more full and detailed account of the merry little flutterer of the blue coat and yellow waistcoat.?” Only compare this with the valuable descriptions of MUDIE,

of WILSON, and of AUDUBON, or even of BEWICK, and it will be found miserably defective. Yet it is fuller than many, and very few contain more information. LEWIN should have been impressed with the assertion of MUDIE, "One ocean scene, to give it breath, one sea bird to give it wing, would require a volume."

Nor can we report more favourably of the plates. We suspect that not only Individuality, but also Form, Size, and Color, were lamentably deficient in the brain of our luckless would-be Naturalist. That prince of birds the noble Golden Eagle, (*Aquila aurea*) is here nothing but an assemblage of tawny feathers, and the eye lacketh that determined spirit looking proud defiance, so characteristic of the species. The Hoopoo, Beeater, Hairy Woodpecker, Barred Woodpecker, Crested Tit, Blue Tit, and a few others are bright exceptions; but these are few and far between; the coloring in most of them is bad, the form worse, and the attitude worst. Almost all are twisting their heads into some strange contortions. The eggs are rather better, but they will bear no comparison with Mr. HEWITSON's masterly productions in this department. If our author instead of seeking foreign fame he could never possess, by writing his descriptions in French as well as in English, had applied himself more diligently to the necessary parts of his work, his production would perhaps have been worth its cost. In the frontispiece a curious variety of the Garden

Tit (*Parus hortensis*, WOOD; *P. major* of LIN.,) is figured. The mandibles are crossed even more strikingly than in the Pipin Crossbill, (*Crucirostra vulgaris*, STEV.) When taken, it was in good condition.

Harmonia Ruralis; or an Essay towards a Natural History of British Song Birds: By JAMES BOLTON: illustrated by figures the size of life, their nests, eggs, food, &c., faithfully drawn, engraved, and colored after nature, by the author, on 80 copper plates, 1796.

THIS work has but small pretensions to the title it bears. Though printed in folio, it does not contain a tithe of the interesting information to be found in the small octavo *Song Birds* of SYME, or *Cage Birds* of BECHSTEIN. One or two of the figures are prettily executed as the Blackcap, (pl. 57,) and the Pied Flycatcher, (pl. 39,) but the rest should never have passed beyond the author's portfolio. Some of the nests are, however neatly "got up," as that of the Mountain Linnet, (pl. 34,) the Redpoll Linnet, (pl. 32,) and that of the Reed Bunting at (pl. 20.) We suspect that very few of those to whom this work is dedicated will desire to possess themselves of it. We will extract the well-meant but superfluous dedication:—"To the British Ladies, to Naturalists, and to all such as admire the beauty or melody of the Feathered Warblers, this essay towards a Natural History of British Song Birds, is most respectfully inscribed by their obedient and

humble Servant, THE AUTHOR." We scruple not to affirm the work to be destitute of any one claim on the patronage of those to whom it is addressed, for, unlike that of LEWIN, it is not even well got up, and if many of the figures in the *Birds of Britain* are caricatures, in the *Harmonia ruralis* they are mere daubs. We hope no more of such works as this will be sent forth: the world has been burdened with enough of them.

Ornithological Dictionary; or a Synopsis of British Birds: 2 vols. 8vo. 1802; also Supplement to the same, 1813; By GEORGE MONTAGU, Esq. F.L.S. and M.W.S. Also 2nd edition, edited by JAMES RENNIE, 8vo. 1832.

THIS is a valuable contribution to the Ornithological information of the present age. The author was a genuine observer of nature, and never allowed himself, like LECLERC, to be led away from truth by any vagaries of his own. MONTAGU has added largely to our stock of facts, and several of his descriptions are surpassed in interest by those of no other Naturalist. He has also rectified many of the mistakes, as to species, of preceding Ornithologists, and discovered several new to the British fauna. It is thus evident that the British Ornithologist is largely indebted to this acute and indefatigable author: his work was accordingly, after his decease, in much demand, and at the time when RENNIE took it in hand, it was not to be met with. The new edition has several

advantages over the old, 1st, it is in one volume instead of three, 2nd, the supplement is incorporated, 3rd, some beautifully executed woodcuts have been added, and the whole volume is neatly got up. But it has also several disadvantages: 1st, many errors are introduced: 2nd, the classification is an undigested medley of almost all the systems that were ever propounded; instead of being like that of LINNEUS, TEMMINK, or SELBY, uniform: 3rd, much of what the author wrote is omitted; and what the author wrote is not always sufficiently distinguished from what is added: 4th, a worse nomenclature, both in Latin and English, could hardly have been selected. RENNIE, in fact, is in no way fitted for the task of editing the works of such an Author as MONTAGU: compilers may, if they choose, seek to "make themselves holes in the monuments of the mighty," but they will never gain a lasting reputation thereby. Something more than compilation is needed now-a-days; and such a work as the second edition of the "*Ornithological Dictionary of British Birds*," is not such a one as will satisfy the Ornithologist of the present day. MONTAGU died in 1815.

General Zoology; or Systematic Natural History: By GEORGE SHAW, M.D., F.R.S., &c. with plates from the first authorities and most select specimens. 14 vols. 8vo. 1800—1826.

THE two first volumes of this work are devoted to Mammalogy, the third to Erpetology, the fourth

the fresh air of the mountain, the woodland, and the moor: in his delightful pages we see the *bird*, and not the dried and lifeless skin; we follow the *living* creature in all its peregrinations; sympathize in its loves, rivalries, sorrows, pains, and pleasures, and thus become fascinated without feeling indebted to the Author: we see Nature as she *is*, and not as her professed admirers wish to make her. The strict, undeviating, and rigorous adherence to truth, apparent throughout the work, gives the reader a confidence and assurance not often experienced to so full an extent.

Many editions have been given of this work. Those best known are, 1st, the original edition; 2nd, JARDINE's edition, 3 vols. 8vo. 1832, £3 3s. uncolored; £6 6s. with colored plates; and 3rd, JAMESON's edition, 4 vols. 12mo. In addition to the 9 vols. quarto of the original edition, 4 more were added in continuation by C. L. BONAPARTE, as celebrated in Ornithology, as his uncle was in butchery. WILSON will continue to be read with delight while Natural History continues to have charms. He was born July 6th, 1766, and died August 23rd, 1813.

Cage Birds; their Natural History, Management, Habits, Food, Diseases, Treatment, Breeding, and the methods of catching them. By JOHN MATTHEW BECHSTEIN, M.D. Translated from the German, with notes by the Translator. Crown 8vo. 1834, 10s. 6d.

THE former work was devoted to the elucidation of the natural habits of birds, and this to their domestic

history. Both are equally pleasant and necessary to be acquainted with, and the latter has now been executed in as complete a style as the former. This has long been felt as a desideratum by the Ornithological amateur, for the only work on the subject in Britain was that of SYME, which did not treat the subject so fully as might have been wished. Dr. BECHSTEIN has given a full account of the diseases, food, &c., of the birds treated of, and he seems to have been altogether very successful with his favorite little songsters. He has enthusiasm on the subject, and this is necessary for the perfect, and satisfactory, treatment of any subject. The *Cage Birds* contains a full and interesting account of about two hundred birds, all of which the worthy Doctor had kept in confinement. He seems to have been less successful with the Nightingale than any other bird, but that that songster will thrive in confinement, as well as any other bird, appears from the following account of another German Ornithologist, WICHTERICH; who says:—"I have been informed that in England the greater number of the Nightingales confined in cages die within a short time after they are caught; and rarely outlive the succeeding winter. This is so far from being the case with me, that I should be ashamed to say I had ever lost more Philomels than of any of the other birds usually kept in cages; though BECHSTEIN has also said in his *Natural History of Cage Birds*, that all his Nightingales died within no very long time."

What has most struck us in this work is the extraordinary value set on the Chaff Finch (Buch Fink.) This bird which no one would think of keeping in confinement in Britain for its song, appears to be highly prized in Germany, as may be seen by the following extracts:—"The passion for this bird is carried to such an extent in Thuringia, and those which sing well are sought for with so much activity that scarcely a single Chaff Finch that warbles tolerably can be found throughout the province. As soon as one arrives from a neighboring country, whose notes appear good, all the bird catchers are after it, and do not give up the pursuit till they have captured it."—p. 175. And again:—"Ruhl is a large manufacturing village in Thuringia, the inhabitants of which, mostly cutlers, have such a passion for Chaff Finches that some have gone ninety miles from home to take with bird-lime one of these birds distinguished by its song, and have given one of their cows for a fine songster, from which has arisen the expression, such a 'Chaff Finch is worth a Cow.'"

A common workman will give a louis d'or (16s.) for a Chaff Finch he admires, and willingly live on bread and water to gain the money. An amateur cannot hear one that sings in a superior style *the double thrill of the Hartz* without being in a ecstasy. From all this it would be natural to suppose the song of the Chaff Finch of Germany to be far superior to that of the British Chaff Finch,

but the translator says at page 186,—“The notes of the wild Chaff Finches in this country are finer than any cage ones I have heard in Germany.” It would be a good speculation to export a few, we think, by way of experiment, and we recommend the trial to some enterprising individual, who might thus soon set up as a dairy farmer.

The translation of this interesting work is very creditably performed, and the notes appended very judiciously selected. We shall subjoin one by way of specimen. The Author in his history of the Crested Tit (*Parus cristatus*, ALDR.) says:—“In the house they require the same treatment as the Blue Tit, and even greater attention; they can rarely be tamed when taken full grown.” Note by the Translator.—“I have, however, seen one old Crested Tit that was tamed as easily as any other bird. After passing the winter in a cage it refused its liberty in the spring. It was then placed in the garden near the house, where it remained till evening, having hopped about all day, uttering restless, anxious cries. Its mistress, fearing some accident befalling it during the night, held the cage towards it, into which it instantly jumped with pleasure. Since then it has been allowed to range three adjoining rooms. It is always lively, coming when its mistress calls, and perching on her finger, and seeking in her half-closed hand the flies she may have there. It made a nest in the window curtain, into which it would glide secretly in the evening, but would

never go whilst any eyes were turned on that side, and seized a favorable moment so quickly, that for some time no one knew where it retired ; but when it was discovered, the curtains were never touched." Several errors of the author have been corrected, but we have noted several which have been overlooked : for instance it is stated at page 395, that the Wood Pigeon (*Columba arborea* ; *C. œnas* of LIN.) is the parent stock from which our different varieties of domestic Pigeons have sprung, whereas the Ring Pigeon (*Columba torquata*,) is the real origin of the Pigeon found in the Pigeon-cot. The English nomenclature adopted by the translator is bad—very bad, and he seems to have aimed like LECLERC (Count of Buffon,) at giving a single name to each bird, instead of a generic and specific appellation. From this circumstance, and several other indications, we suspect the editor to be RENNIE or one of his genus.

BECHSTEIN was born July 11, 1757, died 1822. His preface to the third edition is dated 1812, and we heartily join with the worthy doctor in the earnest wish that the work may contribute more and more to the love of that class of attractive creatures with which the Creator has adorned the earth, and which sing His praises so melodiously and unceasingly!

British Ornithology; By P. J. SELBY, Esq. 2 vols. 8vo. 2nd edition, 1833, £1 1s. Also *Illustrations of British Ornithology*; 2 vols. elephant folio, colored plates.

THIS is a most excellent manual of the Ornithology of Britain, the descriptions being exact, and accurate, and the style neat, and perspicuous. The circular system of MACLEAY, as followed out by VIGORS and SWAINSON, is adopted throughout—perhaps a better could not have been chosen. First comes the name of the Order, under which is given the characters of the same; then the Family, then the Section, and then the Genus, after which the various species in this genus are named and described. The Author's descriptions of the plumage is excellent—no small proportion of which excellence is due to his having adopted a fixed nomenclature of colors—that of WERNER as improved by SYME. The synonyms attached to each species is of no small use to the student, and it is to be regretted that in some instances it is not more copious, and also more *exact*. The first edition of the first volume was published in 1825, and in this edition the system of TEMMINK, with a few modifications is that adopted: we think the Author has acted very judiciously in abandoning this arrangement, and adopting the natural system in its stead. That of TEMMINK is very well for those who have only time sufficient to *dip* into Ornithology, but for those who wish to investigate the various affinities and analogies so apparent throughout nature, the *natural*

system will be best. This is a work which we should recommend to every Ornithological student, elucidating as it does many difficult points and correcting the innumerable mistakes of the older Ornithologists. The vernacular names adopted in the *first* volume are many of them very bad, (see these commented on in vol. II. p. 305 of the *Analyst*;) the second volume may, however, be looked on almost as a model on this point. The plates came out in parts, each part containing twelve plates, price £5. 5s. each. This part of the work is very unequal in merit, and thus cannot be spoken of as a whole. The Author has, we think, been most successful in the larger birds, and it would be almost impossible, we think, to improve on many of the *Raptores*, which for fidelity, boldness, and spirit are unequalled. The Golden Eagle (*Aquila aurea*,) is an admirable figure: this noble bird is represented exulting over her prey, with wings shivering, talons clutching, and neck bristling;—we may subjoin a short extract from MUDIE in point:—"The rich browns with their peculiar metallic lustre, and the pointed feathers on the neck, shaded off till they arrive at the rich orange at the points, and stand up when the bird is excited, as if they were so many scales margined with gold, are not to be obtained unless where the bird has the free and unrestrained range of all its powers,—can climb the pure air till it touch on the region of perpetual frost, and there dash along over a wide extent of country. Their

feathers are tinted and tempered in the fury of the blast; and they acquire not their full depth and lustre till they have borne that for four successive winters; and so it would be vain to hope that we could either obtain or preserve them in confinement."

Feath. Tribes, vol. I. p. 116. The Falcons, and Owls are equally well represented—every feather is distinct, yet beautifully blended. The Beeaters, Orioles, Waxwings, Shrikes, Swallows, Pigeons, Crows, (*Corvus*) and Tarmigans, (*Lagopus*) are equally well executed, but when we approach the Warbler-Family, (*Silviadæ*) and the Finch-Family, (*Fringillidæ*) we are forced to exclaim, "O! what a falling off is there!" There are, true enough, exceptions, as the Tree Sparrow, the Mountain Linnet, and the Tits, but the greater number are about on a par with those of LEWIN. There is yet another fault: many species are frequently crammed into one plate; thus the male and female of the following species are all huddled into one plate—the Tree Sparrow, the Alder Goldwing, the Thistle Goldwing, the Garden Linnet, the Mountain Linnet, and the Haw Grosbeak. The preceding plate is not much better. In this will be found arranged (or rather disarranged) the House Sparrow, the Chaff Finch, the Mountain Finch, the Redpoll Linnet, and the Green Grosbeak; and thus, independent of the badness of the execution, it will be seen that all order is set at defiance. If an author is partial to having several species on

the same plate, (which we think under any circumstance to be a bad practice) why not place in juxtaposition birds of the same genus? In one plate are actually placed two species not only in different genera, but of different families—the Minnow Kingfisher, and the Common Hoopoo: and then again the male and female are sometimes placed on different plates as in the case of the Garden Ouzel. These are not trivial nor unimportant errors, and we hope to find them avoided in any future work of the kind in which Mr. SELBY may engage, and that we may thus be enabled to bestow unqualified praise on his meritorious undertakings.

A Treatise on the British Song Birds; including observations on their Habits, Manners of Incubation, &c., with remarks on their management in a domestic state. By PATRIC SYME, 12s. 1823.

FROM its title it will be seen that this work has somewhat a similar aim as BECHSTEIN's *Cage Birds*, but instead of describing 200 species, only 30 are mentioned by Mr. SYME. The *Song Birds* falls very far short of the *Cage Birds*, for the information contained in Mr. SYME's work is neither so precise, nor so ample as that in the work of the German *aviculturist*. The *British Song Birds* is nevertheless by no means destitute of interest, and contains here and there very entertaining notices and anecdotes of the various birds under consideration, and

we shall extract a very pleasing trait in the character of the Yellow Bunting:—"Some years ago we possessed a Yellow Bunting which we reared from the nest; it was extremely docile, and showing great aptness in learning whatever we attempted to teach it. It was a lively playful bird even in confinement, except only when enjoying restricted freedom, it returned to its cage; then, for a few minutes, it appeared sad and listless, but shortly after resumed its vivacity. When it was permitted to fly through the room, where the cage stood, it would (during breakfast) perch on the sugar basin, nibble at the sugar, and peep into every cup. When any of the females of the family were at work, it delighted to hover about their fingers, and try to seize the thread, by pulling it away; if it met with no resistance, it soon ceased from its labors; or, if it succeeded in carrying off the prize, the pleasure was at an end, for dropping the thread, it soon returned to the sport with renewed interest, evidently more intent on pastime than on plunder. We often left the open cage outside the window, when the Bunting would hop out of the cage, perch on the top, and, after looking about it for some time with apparent unconcern, instead of availing itself of the liberty thus offered, it would fly back to the room."—p. 224. The author has prefixed to the work an interesting Introduction, in which, though we discover errors not a few, the reflecting reader may glean much that is useful, valuable, and entertaining.

Wanderings in South America, the North West of the United States, and the Antilles, in the years 1812, 1816, 1820, and 1824. With original instructions for the perfect preservation of Birds, &c. By CHARLES WATERTON, Esq. 2nd edition, 10s. 6d. 1828.

THE Author of this book is one of the most enterprising naturalists we ever heard of, perhaps surpassing even AUDUBON in this respect. We should be curious to have a phrenological estimate of his head. We surmise that Combativeness and Firmness are "mountain high," and Cautiousness scarce tangible. We find that he has had his "ups and downs" in life as well as other folk, for now we find him on the top of the point of the conductor above the cross on the top of St. Peter's at Rome, where he left his glove, and afterwards of his standing on one foot upon the Guardian Angel's Head on the Castle of St. Angelo: then we hear of him laving his foot 'neath the stupendous fall of Niagara, and on his return home of his being let down over beetling precipices in search of the eggs of sea birds, for which he risked what others would not "for all beneath the moon." But if he is a *daring* fellow traveller, he also makes an amusing, and we may add, an instructive one. However, we cannot devote much more space to this work as it does so little to advance the science of Ornithology; what is said on this subject is rather an incitement to others than positive information in itself. The little that is said is rendered almost entirely useless by the birds being described under the Indian names.

If the *proper* English names had been given, this perhaps would have been sufficient, but not even this has been done, much less are the Latin names given. The first edition was published in 1825, price £1 11s. 6d. and differed in no respect from the present edition, but in being encumbered with "meadows of margin," which have been very judiciously dispensed with in the present edition. The next edition might be very conveniently at least half the size, and we may add, half the price. It is a rich treasure to the Naturalist, and has gained the popularity it so abundantly deserves.

The Journal of a Naturalist : 2nd edition, 15s. 1829.

THIS work is somewhat of the same scope and character as WHITE's *Selborne*, but it is not so much to our taste as that pleasing work. Its merits, however, whatever they may be, have certainly not been overlooked by the public, for it is now enjoying the honors of a third edition. Mr. KNAPP, the reputed author, appears to be an observant Naturalist, and his amiable disposition is transfused throughout the work.

Gleanings in Natural History : to which are added notices of some of the Royal Parks and Residences. By EDWARD JESSE, Esq., 3 vols. 8vo. £1 11s. 6d.

NICE light reading for the leisure hours of the Naturalist, consisting principally of anecdotes of

various animals as observed by the author and his correspondents. The author is evidently unacquainted with Phrenology, or he would not have betrayed his ignorance on several points which that science satisfactorily clears up. In vol. III. p. 74, *et seq.*, is a remarkable instance of this. Alluding to the instinct of migration the author says:—"All these [animals] and many others, possess an instinct so wonderful, that we are incapable either of explaining or accounting for it." This and many other passages betray an ignorance which is not very creditable in a cultivated gentleman of the nineteenth century. There are also some Ornithological errors, of which we shall subjoin a specimen:—"The Cuckoo probably lays more than one egg, as I believe there is no known instance of any species laying only one. Nature is too provident of the different species to run any risk of their being exterminated, which might be the case if only one egg was deposited." There are however many known instances of species which lay only one egg, and among British birds, we may specify the Solan Gannet, (*Sula basana*,) the Common Puffin, (*Puffinus fratercula*,) the Common Rotch, (*Mergulus melanolucus*,) the Auk, (*Alca*,) the Petrel, (*Thalassidroma*,) the Guillimot, (*Uria*,) &c., and so far from there being any "risk of their being exterminated," are found in countless numbers along the coast. This is a striking instance of the dangerousness of theorising, and that nature laughs at "man's wis-

dom." We shall now give a specimen or two of the anecdotes:—"One of the late chaplains of the embassy at Lisbon, brought to England with him a dog of the Newfoundland breed, so large that he was obliged to go from Torquay to London, as no public coach would convey him. Though so immense in size, he was very gentle, but perfectly aware of his own powers. When his master was at the hotel at Torquay, the waiter spoke savagely to the dog, and tried to prevent him going where he wished. With one stroke of his paw he felled the waiter, and then passed on without doing any further mischief. When his feet were dirty, he always entered the passage and ascended the stairs on tip-toe to avoid being detected, but when his feet were dry, he trod with all his weight and made as much noise as a pony. After being two years at the hotel, he wanted water. A gentleman who related the circumstance, saw the dog go to the kitchen, take up a pail in his mouth, and carry it to the pump in the yard. He sat down by it till one of the servants came out, and then his gestures were so significant that the man pumped the pail full. When he had drank a sufficient quantity of water, he took up the pail again and carried it to the same place in the kitchen from whence he had taken it."—vol. III. p. 30. Here is another on the same sagacious genus:—"A gentleman of my acquaintance witnessed the following occurrence. He was shooting one day by the side of a hill, attended

by a keeper, and shot at and wounded a hare, which ran through one of the several holes made at the bottom of a stone wall. The keeper sent a favorite retriever after the hare. The dog jumped over the wall, caught the hare, and returned with it in his mouth to the wall, but after several attempts was unable to jump back again with his additional load. Giving up his ineffectual efforts, the dog was seen to push the hare with his nose as far as he could through one of the holes at the bottom of the wall. He then leapt over it, dragged the hare through the hole on the other side, and brought it to his master. From the high spot on which the parties stood, they were able to witness the whole of the dog's proceedings, which certainly appear to have been caused by some faculty beyond mere instinct." "A gentleman living near Spilsby, in Lincolnshire, was one day riding over his farm and superintending his plough-men, who were ploughing a piece of fallow land. He saw a Partridge glide off her nest so near the foot of the plough-horses that he thought the eggs must be crushed; this, however, was not the case, but he found that the old bird was on the very point of hatching, as several of the eggs were beginning to crack. He saw the old bird return to her nest the instant he left the spot. It was evident that the next round of the plough must bury the eggs and nest in the furrow. His astonishment was great when returning with the plough, he came to the spot, and saw the nest indeed, but the eggs and

bird were gone. An idea struck him that she had removed her eggs; and he found her, before he left the field, sitting under the hedge upon twenty-one eggs, and she brought up nineteen birds. The round of ploughing had occupied about twenty minutes, in which time she (probably assisted by the male bird) had removed the twenty-one eggs to a distance of about forty yards." Here is an anecdote of another species of biped:—"It is well known that His Majesty, [George the Third,] was a regular attendant at church, and that he repeated the responses in a very distinct manner. About the fortieth year of his reign he was, on some public occasion, much hooted at by a mob. When at chapel the next day he not only repeated the following verse in a voice sufficiently loud to be heard by every one in the chapel, but laid a peculiarly strong emphasis on the last part of it, putting his head at the same time out of the closet window:—"Forty years long have I been grieved with this generation, and said, it is a people that do err in their hearts, *for they have not known my ways.*" Before taking leave of these pleasant volumes, we cannot but remark on the dearness of the work. The two first volumes contain 634 pages, price £1 1s. while SELBY's two volumes of *British Ornithology* contain 988 for the same money; and is besides a valuable standard work, while the other is merely a scrap book. Then again, MUDIE's *Feathered Tribes* consists of 770 pages, each of which

contains much more matter than the *Gleanings*; and has besides many colored plates, and the cost is £1 8s. RENNIE's edition of MONTAGU contains upwards of 600 closely printed pages, containing twice the quantity of matter the *Gleanings* do, for £1 1s. The 3rd vol. of the *Gleanings* contains only 310 pages for 10s. 6d: this is "too bad." Such prices as this may well induce the proprietors of the cheap library of Natural History to talk of the "notoriously exorbitant price of works on Natural History." LOUDON when reviewing KIRBY's work on the *Instincts of Animals*, has noticed the same of that work:—"The quantity of words in the two volumes, we guess, about equal to the quantity in a few ninepenny parts of the *Penny Cyclopaedia*; and yet 30s. are asked for this quantity and the plates! Who can profit by the teaching of a KIRBY, while the bookseller precludes access to his lessons?" *Mag. Nat. Hist.* vol. VIII. p. 471. This is somewhat similar to picking the pockets of their purchasers, and publishers will find that in the long run they will be the losers by this grasping system.

The British Naturalist, by ROBERT MUDIE: 2 vols. 12mo. 2nd edition, 1835, 12s. Orr and Smith.

WE have not space to do justice to this meritorious little work, but we shall give specimens of the author's plan and mode of execution, which appears to us very masterly. The first passage we shall

extract is from the preface, and is explanatory of his views:—"In this work, as well as in others which have followed its first publication, and which may be said to have been produced by its success, I have endeavoured to do as I would wish to be done by. I do not want to hear the harangue of the exhibitor; I want to see the exhibition itself, and that he shall be quiet, and let me study and understand that in my own way. If I meet with any object that arrests my attention, I do not wish to run over the roll of all objects of a similar kind, I want to know something about the next one, and why they should be in juxtaposition. If, for instance, I meet with an Eagle on a mountain cliff, I have no desire to be lectured about all the birds that have clutching talons and crooked beaks. That would take me from the book of nature,—rob me of the spectacle, and give me only the story of the exhibitor, which I have no wish either to hear or to remember. I want to know why the Eagle is on that cliff, where there not a thing for her to eat, rather than down in the plain, where prey is abundant; I want also to know what good the mountain itself does,—that great lump of sterility and cold; and when I find that the cliff is the very place from which the Eagle can sally forth with the greatest ease and success, and that the mountain is the parent of all those streams that gladden the valleys and plains,—when I find that the barren mountain is a source of fertility, that the cold snow is a protecting mantle,

and that the all-devouring sea is a fabricator of new lands, and an easy pathway round the globe,—I am informed, nay, more, I see a purpose in it,—the working of a Power mightier than that of man. My thoughts ascend from mountains to masses wheeling freely in absolute space. I look for the boundary. I dare not even imagine it: I cannot resist the conclusion—‘This is the building of God.’” We shall now extract a few passages from the work, and we shall begin with the monarch of the mountain-top, the Golden Eagle, (*Aquila aurea*)—“On the summits of those cliffy mountains, there are generally large masses of loose stone, and it is no uncommon feat to send these booming and bounding down the slope, or thundering over the precipice. In the former case, how they dance, dash, and loosen others, till the whole mountain side is in motion! In the latter, the stone is not seen, but the peals, as it dashes from one projecting point to another, are loud; they are caught up in echoes, and reverberated from cliff to cliff, till the whole wilderness is in mimic thunder,—rendered the more awfully solemn, that there is not a living thing visible, save one small, pale butterfly, and the wind has carried it away before the species could be known.

“Ah! the sound of wings in the abyss, together with a cherup, which again awakens the echoes, and mocks the thundering of the stone. The bird appears more than a thousand feet distant, and yet she is gigantic. What grace of attitude, what

strength of pinion, and with what rapidity, yet with what ease, she wheels sunward, till, far above the summit of the mountain, she leans motionless like a brown speck on the bosom of the sky! From its size, it must be twelve pounds weight at the least, and yet it absolutely rises, and that rapidly, as if it were of less specific gravity than the medium in which it floats, rarefied as it is by a height of nearly a mile. The muscular energy by which that is effected, must be immense: to sustain itself without motion of the wings is astonishing enough, but it is nothing to a rapid motion upward, from no fulcrum but the thin air. It is the GOLDEN EAGLE. For many years she has had her eyrie in those cliffs. She has laid the surrounding heaths and valleys under contributions, for the support of those successive broods, for which, while they were young, she was so attentive in rending the prey; but which, when they grew up, she drove far from her own immediate haunt, to become the monarchs of other mountains.

“In symmetry, in strength, in the vigor of her wing, the acuteness of her vision, and the terrible clutch of her talons, the Golden Eagle is superior to every other bird, and as her habitation is always in those time-built palaces, the most lofty and inaccessible precipices, there is sublimity in her dwelling; and though in reality a long-lived bird, she has popularly gained a sort of immortality from the durable nature of her abode. It appears to be

one of the general provisions of nature, that the most powerful destroyers of living animals should have their favorite haunts in the most lonely places ; and in this the Lion, the most powerful of quadrupeds, and the Eagle, the most vigorous of birds, completely agree. There is, however, a wonderful difference in the distances at which they can discover their prey : the Lion springs only a few yards, while the Eagle darts down from the mid-heaven, in one perpendicular and accelerating stoop." After this follows the regular history of the bird.

Our author is a follower of IZAAK WALTON, and as the question concerning the cruelty of angling has lately been very much agitated, we shall let our author speak at length :—" Those who carry sentiment into nature, condemn angling as a cruel sport, though anglers, from the time of IZAAK WALTON, and probably from long before that, have been proverbially a kind-hearted and poetic class of men,—models of mildness, as compared with any other sportsmen. A man who is amid the beauties of nature in calm and silent contemplation, or intent only upon the capture of a trout, is in a situation the very best calculated for forgetting animosity, and cherishing kindness and good-will for all mankind ; and any means by which that frame of mind can be ensured, are cheaply purchased at the expense of any quantity of mere spoken sentiment,—more especially of that very questionable kind, which is just as forward to batten upon the fish, as to condemn the angler.

“ IN Sir HUMPHREY DAVY’s *Salmonia*, there is a passage, descriptive of river scenery, which is so true to nature, that we cannot refrain from quoting it:—‘ As to its (angling’s) practical relations, it carries us into the most wild and beautiful scenery of nature; amongst the mountain-lakes, and the clear and lovely stream, that gush from the higher ranges of elevated hills, or make their way through the cavities of calcareous strata:’ (We should not, for our fishing, give a preference to streams, that run through calcareous strata; but *n’importe*.) ‘ How delightful, in the early spring, after the dull and tedious winter, when the frosts disappear, and the sunshine warms the earth and waters, to wander forth by some clear stream,—to see the leaf bursting from the purple bud,—to scent the odors of the bank, perfumed by the violet, and enamelled, as it were, with the primrose and the daisy:—to wander upon the fresh turf, below the shade of the trees;—and, on the surface of the waters, to view the gaudy flies sparkling, like animated gems, in the sunbeams, while the bright, beautiful trout is watching them from below; to hear the twittering of the water-birds, who, alarmed at your approach hide themselves beneath the leaves of the waterlilies; and, as the season advances, to find all these objects changed for others of the same kind, but better and brighter, till the swallow and the trout contend, as it were, for the gaudy May-fly; and still, in pursuing your amusement in the calm and balmy evening, you are serenaded by the songs

of the cheerful thrush, and the melodious nightingale, performing the offices of paternal love, in thickets ornamented with the rose and woodbine.'

"There is, indeed, a calmness and repose about angling which belongs to no other sport,—hardly to any other exercise. To be alone and silent, amid beauties of nature when she is just shaking off the last emblems of the winter's destruction, and springing into life, fresh, green, and blooming,—that, that is the charm. The osier bed, as the supple twigs register every fit of the breeze, display the down on the under side of their leaves, and play like a sea of molten silver, for the production of which no slave ever toiled in the mine; and at that little nook where the stream, after working itself into a ripple through the thick matting of *confervæ* and water-lilies, glides silently under the hollow bank, and lies dark, deep, and still as a mirror, is made exquisitely touching by the pendant boughs of the weeping willow that stands 'mournfully ever' over the stilly stream. In such a place, who could refrain from moralising? From the days of PLINY, and probably from days long before PLINY was born, it has been customary, to look upon a river as the emblem of human life. It brawls its sparkling and playful childhood among the mountains, 'leaps down into life' by the last cascade. Then it mingles among busy scenes:—laves alike the castle and the cottage, grinds at the mill, and glitters round the church-yard; broadening, and slackening its pace

while it runs ; and at last mingles in the mass of departed rivers in the boundless ocean. The simile is not a bad one, and as a well-chosen simile is to him who wishes for thought without pedantry and formality, what a well-dressed fly is to an angler, it will here be pursued a little further ; and this is the more pardonable, that the termination—which at the ocean is tinged with gloom and despair, may be brightened into hope and exultation.

* * * * *

“They who pule about the trout, have no compassion for the fly, to which life is as sweet as to any other living creature. They cry out at the putting of a hook in its jaws, but they mention not the millions of which the same jaws have been the grave ; they complain that a net is spread for the fish, but they never will reflect that the same fish converts the whole stream into a net for the capture of his prey. If there is cruelty in the one case, there must be cruelty also in the other ; but the fact is, there is cruelty in neither. The trout feeds upon the flies ; man feeds upon the trout ; the purposes of life are served ; and nature tempers the supply to the waste.

“One word more about the cruelty of angling. As man is superior to all other earthly creatures, the purposes of man are those that ought first to be considered ; and there are two points to guide the consideration,—moral justice to ourselves, that we do not waste our time, or injure our sense of right

and wrong by our purpose; and moral equity, that we invade not the privileges of other men. Now in any of these acts that we call cruelty to animals, we are wrong when the purpose in view does not call for the act, or when there are other means of accomplishing that purpose,—as when a brutal person attempts to beat into action an animal that stands more in need of food or rest. When we do the act even with a purpose, there is apt to be a taint, a lessening of the delicacy of feeling towards our fellows, in proportion as the animal to which the act is done approximates to man in structure or association. That which shrinks and throbs with pain, from which the blood flows warm, and the breath escapes in sighs and convulsions,—the killing of a hare or a rabbit, or even a pig, is much more likely to contaminate, than the death of a trout, which has little or nothing in common with us. A cat is a predatory animal, and yet a man of any pretensions to right feelings, would rather pull a few thousand fishes from the stream, than kill the mouser which sat basking in the lone old woman's cottage window, and had for ten long years been the only associate of its mistress. This maudlin-tenderness, which is often the cloak of cruelty of a far worse description, is another of the fruits of that bastard tree of knowledge, which produces words, not things; and the very summit of which is so dwarfed and lowly, that it can command but a little shred of the prospect. Before we decide, we should see the whole;

for if we do not understand that, we shall never be able to comprehend the purpose and working of any of the parts."

MUDIE appears to us to have taken the subject in the right light, but we have dwelt long enough on the first volume, and shall now just glance at the second. This is divided into "the Year," "Spring," and "Summer," and the various productions of nature are described under their proper heads. Both in matter and manner it strikes us as being much inferior to the first volume. The style is very frequently, to say the least, inelegant, and sometimes obscure. The author's scepticism as to the fact of the Cuckoo laying her egg in the nests of other birds, seems to us, very absurd, and savors more of singularity than a desire to arrive at the truth.

In a review of this work on its first appearance, (1830,) which appeared in vol. V. of the *Magazine of Natural History*, the reviewer points out many passages which are not only obscurely expressed, but which it is impossible to understand, and makes many suggestions with a view to a future edition. These hints, we are surprised to find are not adopted in the second edition, and nothing has been added but an index and a few additional cuts. The obscure passages remain just the same. The frontispiece to the second volume is very beautiful: the cow drinking is hit off to the life. Several of the cuts of the birds (as the Lapwing and Nightjar) are very fair, but we must add, they are copied.

That the public has not overlooked the merits of this little work appears from the opening passage of the preface:—"When, nearly six years ago, the first volume of this work made its appearance, I felt it necessary to offer an apology for that departure from the usual style of treating such subjects, which seemed to me to form the most peculiar feature of its character. To continue that apology now would be affectation; the public have been pleased with the book, and the public press have been very general and ample in its commendation. For at least half the time, too, not a copy has been on sale, and yet the public have continued to inquire for *THE BRITISH NATURALIST*. This favorable reception has convinced me that the plan I have attempted, of representing the works of creation in their natural groups is the best, if not the only way of making the pages of the written book have some resemblance to the *BOOK OF NATURE*." We now dismiss this little work with a recommendation to every lover of nature to procure it.

Letters to a Young Naturalist, on the Study of Nature and Natural Theology: By J. L. DRUMMOND, M.D. 7s. 6d. 1831.

AN excellent little work which no "Young Naturalist" should be without. Professed Naturalists will also find much that is pleasing and instructive in the amiable doctor's pages. The author loses no opportunity of impressing his readers with the beau-

tiful adaptations of cause to produce the intended effects so apparent throughout the creation, and thus the work is the more fitted for the young than if it were merely a record of facts and observations.

A History of British Animals, exhibiting the descriptive characters and systematical arrangement of the genera, and species of Quadrupeds, Birds, Reptiles, Fishes, Molusca, and Radiata of Britain: By JOHN FLEMING, D.D. 1828.

A Compendium of British Animals would have been more descriptive of the nature of the work than a *History*: the descriptions of birds are chiefly taken up by the plumage department. The classification of the Ornithological portion is bad, very bad: as an instance we may cite the following; at page 72 the Yellow Warbler (*Silvia melodia*,) and the Hedge Warbler (*Silvia loquax*,) are ranked in the genus Kinglet (*Regulus*,) while the Wood Warbler (*Silvia sibilans*,) agreeing precisely in appearance, habits, and structure with the other two Warblers, is ranked in the genus Fauvet (*Ficedula*,) The Robin Redbreast and the Wall Redstart, again, are placed in the same genus! The whole arrangement of the genera is as wrong as a perverted ingenuity could well make it. The volume would, however, make a useful one if it could be remodelled by some competent person, in whose hands it would serve as a valuable foundation—nothing more.

British Oology; being Illustrations of the eggs of the Birds of Britain, accompanied by letter-press, descriptive of the haunts, food, &c. of each species. By W. C. HEWITSON, vols. I. and II., £2 2s. each.

Mr. HEWITSON has supplied a gap long and severely felt by the Ornithologist, and supplied it in a manner equally creditable to the author, and satisfactory to his subscribers. The only representations of eggs previously accessible to the British public were those in LEWIN'S *Birds of Britain*, and these were far from satisfactory to the scientific, independent of the enormous price of the work. Mr. HEWITSON'S elegant undertaking has another advantage: in it are figured the principal, and most striking varieties of each of the eggs, and these sometimes vary so much as to render their identification impossible, unless indeed the nest is seen also. The letter-press, however, is not sufficiently full,—a page is the least that ought to be devoted to the necessary details, but we regret to say that even this small portion is seldom given. The classification is also a sad jumble. The author should have taken SELBY for his guide: to this arrangement he should have adhered. He appears, however, to have vacillated between TEMMINK'S system, and that of SELBY: as a remarkable instance of this we may mention that the Green Grosbeak, agreeably to the system of the former, is retained in the genus Finch, while the Haw Grosbeak is removed, in accordance with SELBY'S system, to the Grosbeak genus. Such a disregard of the principles of classification cannot

be too strongly condemned, but this would have been of little moment in a work like this, in comparison to another error—that of placing the eggs of birds in different genera in the same plate. For instance, in the very last Number, the egg of the Nightingale (*Philomela*,) and the Redbreast (*Rubecula*,) are on the same plate! And many other errors of the kind, as bad, and even worse might be cited. When the work is arranged to be bound, these errors will take away half the value from the work, for it will oblige the subscriber to retain birds in juxtaposition which occupy a very different situation in the natural system. We noticed the same error in SELBY'S plates, and wherever it occurs it ought to be unsparingly reprobated. The plates of HEWITSON are numbered regularly in the order in which they come out; they should, however, either not have been numbered at all, or else, in accordance with some system, that of SELBY for instance. Thus suppose the Eagle came first, this would be numbered "plate II;" suppose the Wren came next, this would be numbered "plate CXXX." Had the work been conducted on this plan it would have been valuable indeed. The eggs of 140 birds have been already figured—that is, half the number of species known in Britain. The slow progress of the work has been a subject of general complaint—by the time the work completes the third volume, we begin to think the author will have a new generation of subscribers. If a number containing not

less than eight plates, was issued *monthly*, it would be a far greater satisfaction to the purchasers, and one should suppose, be more satisfactory to the author. No plate should, on any account whatever, contain the eggs of more than one species. With these few hints we take leave of the author, wishing him that success he so richly deserves.

The British Warblers : an account of the genus Silvia : illustrated by beautifully colored figures taken from living specimens in the author's collection : By ROBERT SWEET. 16s. 6d. 1823.

THIS volume consists of 144 pages, and 16 plates. The plates of the birds, are, excepting perhaps the two Chats (*Rubetra*,) and two of the Fauvets (*Ficedula*,) painfully stiff and unnatural; the flowers and stalks on which they stand are far more natural, and are very well executed. This circumstance is easily accounted for: for besides the well-known fact that flowers are far more easy to represent than birds, the execution of the plates was most injudiciously intrusted to a *botanical* draughtsman. Sixteen birds are figured and described, namely, the two Chats (*Rubetra*,) a Redstart (*Ruticilla*,) the Nightingale (*Philomela*,) the four Fauvets (*Ficedula*,) the three Warblers (*Silvia*,) the Whinling (*Melizophilus*,) the Locustel (*Locustella*,) the two Reedlings (*Salicaria*,) and the Wheatear (*Vitiiflora*,) It will thus be seen that the Redbreast (*Rubecula*,) the Dunnoc (*Accentor*,) and

the two Kinglets (*Regulus*,) which were formerly reckoned as forming a part of the genus Warbler (*Silvia*,) are omitted. Some interesting particulars are given in this work, from which we select the following concerning the Hedge Warbler (*Silvia loquax*,)—“The Hedge Warbler or lesser pettychaps is readily taken in a trap in the same manner as the last species, (the Yellow Warbler) with which they are often in company in the summer. They soon get familiar in confinement; when first caught, they should, if possible, be put with other birds; and they will readily take to feed on bruised hemp seed and bread, and on bread and milk, which must at first, be stuck full of small insects, or a quantity of Aphides may be shook off a branch upon it; when they have once tasted it, they will be very fond of it. One that I caught, took to eating it directly, and became so familiar, that in three or four days, it would take a fly out of the hand; it also learnt to drink milk out of a teaspoon, of which it was so fond, that it would fly after it all round the room, and perch on the hand that held it, without showing the least symptoms of fear; it would also fly up to the ceiling, and bring down a fly in its mouth (bill) every time; at last, it got so very tame, that it would sit on my knee, by the fire, and sleep; and when the windows were open it would never attempt, nor seemed to have the least inclination to fly out; so that I at last ventured to entice it out in the garden, to see whether it would return; I with

difficulty enticed it out at the door with a spoon of milk ; it returned twice to the room ; the third time, it ventured into a little tree ; it then fled, and perched on my hand, and drank milk out of the spoon ; from thence it flew to the ground, on some damp chick-weed, in which it washed itself, and got into a holly bush to dry ; after getting among the leaves, I could see no more of it, but heard it call several times. I suppose, after it got quite dry, that it left the country directly, as I could never see or hear it afterwards ; and it was then the end of November, when all the others had left for some time." Had the plates been more respectably executed, the work would have been a very desirable one, though certainly not worth even half the original price. It is a very convenient size, (about the same as the *British Oology*) and a work on British Birds, about the same size as this, each species illustrated by a colored plate, and each plate accompanied by five or six pages of description, is a great desideratum to the British Ornithologist. The work might come out in monthly numbers, each number containing five or six plates. Mr. SWEET's work came out in three numbers. The author died January 20th, 1835, aged 52.

The Birds of Europe ; in quarterly parts, imperial folio, each part containing 20 plates and 20 leaves of letter-press ; each price £3 8s. By JOHN GOULD.

THE first part of this beautiful work appeared in June, 1832, and 14 parts have now been published.

It may safely be asserted that the plates in fidelity of delineation and beauty of execution are unrivalled: in this department Mr. GOULD has outstripped the most celebrated of his predecessors, and the most successful of his cotemporaries. The first number contains, amongst others, the Ruddy Falcon, (*Falco tinnuloides*,) the Kingfisher, the Wryneck, (*Torquilla*,) the Rail, the Redfooted Falcon, the Whin Chat, the Missel Thrush, &c., and these are remarkably well hit off, particularly the Wryneck, which is quite inimitable. Many birds are already included which were not in TEMMINK's *Manuel d'Ornithologie*: and amongst others a new species of Wagtail, (*Motacilla neglecta*,) and a new species of Kinglet, (*Regulus modestus*.) The work has been highly praised by the press, and in No. IV of the *Analyst*, in a notice of the work, a correspondent says:—"Nine parts of this splendid work (the *Birds of Europe*,) have already appeared. The author, evidently a *Falco* of the *Golden Eagle* kind, has taken wing nobly; soars far above all his European competitors; and leaves even the American AUDUBON himself at a goodly distance below. To conclude, the dark—the *iron*—ages of Ornithology,

‘ Pierced by a RAY

Of British light, have long since passed away.’

BEWICK, by his spirited doings on the block (no lack of respect to the memory of that highly-endowed

and pains-taking man,) hath since ushered in the *wooden*—and RENNIE, still more lately, the *brazen* age; but the duration of the latter will be brief; its days are numbered: for (prithee, forgive, O gentle reader, the miserable pun,) the *golden* age of Ornithology, is at last, dawning upon us.” We are sorry to say that only 300 copies of this work are to be published, and thus it will be rendered comparatively useless. It is to be completed in twenty parts, containing about four hundred species.

Ornithological Biography, or an account of the Habits of the Birds of America, accompanied by descriptions of the objects represented in the work entitled, *the Birds of America*, and interspersed with delineations of American scenery and manners, By JOHN JAMES AUDUBON, vols. I, II, & III. £1 5s. each.

NEXT to WILSON's work, that of AUDUBON is the most wonderful specimen of what may be accomplished by talent, enthusiasm, and industry, unaided by wealth or patronage, with which we are acquainted in the Ornithological world. The author not content with observing birds from his “study window,” or, like placid WHITE, those in the immediate vicinity of his dwelling—roamed abroad far and wide, exploring the forests, ransacking the marshes, and forcing every part of mighty America* to yield her feathered treasures, and display them before the

* *America*, we use in the same sense as AUDUBON, namely for the continent to the north of the Isthmus of Darien, the southern continent being termed *Columbia*.

hardy adventurer. AUDUBON corrects many errors of his predecessors, WILSON not excepted, and has made numerous interesting additions to the American fauna; at the head of these in the Land birds is the Washington Eagle (*Aquila Washingtonia*,) and of the water birds, the Western Hern (*Ardea occidentalis*,)—the largest bird of its genus, and in every stage pure white. Besides the old species of Colibree—the Rubythroated Colibree (*Colubris rubens*,) AUDUBON has discovered another—the Mango Colibree (*Colubris mango*,) Among other new discoveries we may notice the Wood Wren (*Anorthura silvestris*,) the Common Polibor (*Poliborus vulgaris* VIEIL,) the Carbuncle Kinglet (*Regulus carbunculus*, BON.,) the Westkey Pigeon (*Columba montana*, LIN.,) and many others. After every fifth description or Biography, is an episode describing anything remarkable with which the author fell in during his peregrinations, and all are written with that graphic ease, and vigor for which the “backwoodman’s” style is so remarkable. Little can be said in praise of the nomenclature. We shall not comment on the disagreement between the generic names in English, and those in Latin, but there is another inadvertence which must not be passed over—giving to American species the same names as different species found in Britain. Thus he calls the *Cipselus pelasgius* “Chimney Swallow;” the *Falco sparverius* he calls “Sparrow Hawk,” and the *Fringilla canadensis* he calls “Tree Sparrow.” These should have been

called Chimney Swift, Rustycrowned Falcon, and Tree Finch. If these and a few other errors were corrected, and the work were arranged in scientific order, it might well be pronounced the most perfect work of its kind ever published. One hundred species are described in each volume: the fourth and concluding volume, the author hopes to publish in 1838; it will contain the remainder of the water birds, and such new land birds, as may not be included in the first and second volumes. The size of these volumes is very pleasing: they have not the bulky, unwieldy, forbidding appearance of the quarto, nor the stunted form of post octavo. There are two likenesses of AUDUBON now in the shops. We have been told that that given in the translation of CUVIER, published by HENDERSON in monthly numbers, is the most faithful, and we therefore chose this to bind up as the frontispiece to volume I of the *Ornithological Biography*, and would advise our readers to do the same.

The *Birds of America*, by the same author, come out in numbers, of which the 60th has just appeared, completing the third volume. These plates are 3 ft. 3 in. by 2 ft. 2 in., thus giving ample scope to the pictorial talents of the drawer. Nor has AUDUBON abused this advantage as most persons would. He has not crammed half a dozen or more species into one plate, but has, we are happy to say, adhered rigidly to the promise given in the prospectus, that in no instance should more than *one* species be

depicted. As to the merits of the plates, we can by no means concur with the praise which has oftentimes been so lavishly pronounced on them: and assuredly they will not for an instant stand comparison with the chaste, delicate, and we may add, *eloquent*, ay, Reader, *eloquent* productions of Mr. GOULD's pencil. Many of the land birds are so overlaid with foliage and other productions of the vegetable world, that it is not easy to detect the bird—which *ought* to be the principal object. Notwithstanding these defects, we may well say with CUVIER, "que c'est le monument le plus magnifique qui ait encore été élevé à l'ornithologie."

Fauna Borealis Americana; or the Zoology of the Northern parts of British America. By JOHN RICHARDSON, M.D.: assisted by WILLIAM SWAINSON, 4to. vol. II. Ornithology. £4 4s. 1831.

THE appearance of this work is not one of the least remarkable of the signs of "the march of intellect," and may almost be said to mark an epoch in the country's history. But for the fostering care of government, which set apart £1000 for the purpose, the necessary funds could not have been raised to meet the expenses of publication. This it is true is but a small beginning, but is a cheering prognostication of what may be expected hereafter, when, having emerged from barbarism, nations shall no longer permit their rulers to misapply the country's treasure for the truly infernal purpose of murdering

their fellow-creatures, but spend it furthering a knowledge of the works of their Creator. The systematic portion of the work before us, and the plates are by SWAINSON. He has followed the classification of VIGORS, with modifications by himself, which appear to be generally, very judicious. The plates, like all by this celebrated author, are soft and subdued, but throughout there is a sad lack of spirit and energy. This is the chief characteristic of all the plates of this celebrated artist. The Pine Thickbill (pl. LIII,) is very beautiful, but quite ideal, as is that of the Wood Buzzard (pl. XXVII.) Such birds do very well for the drawing room, but would be sadly out of their element in the forest or on the moor. The best figure in the volume is decidedly that of the Water Willet (*Seiurus aquaticus*,) (pl. XLIII.) The Rustycrowned Falcon (pl. XXIV.) and the Northern Shrike (pl. XXXIII.) we do not like—they appear too artificial. The Spotted Silvicles (pl. XL,) are pretty bits of color, but the talent of the author is more fitted for concological than ornithological subjects—his shells are truly exquisite.

Encyclopedia of Geography; comprising a complete description of the Earth, &c. Edited by HUGH MURRAY, 1834.

THE Zoological portion of this truly instructive and entertaining work is by SWAINSON, who has been sadly cramped by the limited space devoted to this department. The principal birds and a few of their

most remarkable habits are given under the head of each country, accompanied by woodcuts, sometimes poor enough, but generally beautiful. Mr. SWAINSON, though unquestionably a talented systematist, has evidently but small acquaintance with the birds of *Britain*. At p. 606 is given a list of birds prefaced by the following comment:—"The following list of Roman birds *unknown as natives of Britain*, will materially illustrate the geographic ornithology of the two countries." In this list we find the Alpine Swift, (*Cipselus melba*;) the Wood Treeling (*Silvia sibilans*;) the Tawny Aluc (*Aluco stridula*;) the Rock Pipit (*Anthus rupestris*;) and the Tree Pipit (*A. arboreus*;) all of which are not only known as British birds but are also *very common*! The Alpine Abern, the Firecrested Kinglet, the Little Pluver (*Pluvialis pusilla*;) the White Storc, the Black Storc, the Glossy Ibis, and the Purple Hern are also British birds, although SWAINSON was evidently unacquainted with it. If an author displays such lamentable ignorance of the natural history of his own country, how will readers give him credit for a correct knowledge of that of foreign countries? Instead of *one* unwieldy volume of 1560 pages, would it not have been better to have published it in *three* of 600 pages each; and thus the type might have been more uniform and not so minute as it too frequently is in the present impression.

Compendium of the Ornithology of Britain. BY JOHN ATKINSON, 1820.

A useful work when it first appeared, but now totally useless. The system followed is that of LINNEUS! with an occasional improvement from SHAW's *General Zoology*. A work on a similar plan would be useful now, if in accordance with the more philosophical views now taken. It should contain the principal synonyms, the prominent characters, and a description of the plumage of each species.

The Birds of Scotland: a Poem, by GRAHAM. 12mo. 1806. Edinburgh.

A sweet little work, overflowing with true poetry,—different, very different from the vulgar effusions of JENNINGS. The verses flow smoothly and harmoniously, and what is of more importance, are *true to nature*. It is to be regretted that we have not more works of this kind, and the incidental touches of SCOT, ROGERS, and CHARLOTTE SMITH do but whet the inclination for more. We should for instance, like to see “the *Birds of Britain*, a Poem,” announced, and now that ideality is not thought foreign to Natural History, we have no doubt of such a work succeeding.

Ornithologia, or the Birds: a Poem in two parts, with an introduction to their Natural History, and copious notes; By JAMES JENNINGS. 2nd edition, 1829.

THIS book would have been far more appropriately named, as the author intimates, a "*Metrical Catalogue*." A great part of the "*Poetry*" is occupied in describing an assembly of birds, in accordance with the orders of "the Aquiline monarch and Vulturid King," and is a parcel of stuff and nonsense from beginning to end. The absurdity of the idea, is only equalled by the wretchedness of the execution, and thus the only means by which we might have become reconciled to the ludicrousness of the plot is wanting, and as if to aggravate the matter still more, the page is stuck all over with notes, which are as empty and inharmonious as the song which they accompany. These would have been much better in a sort of introduction or appendix, but best of all, omitted altogether. We should not have dealt thus severely with this no doubt well-meant work, had it not been for the conceit, and self-sufficiency manifested by the author in his prefatory remarks, which would certainly raise the expectation to a higher pitch than the result would warrant. Two or three of the afterpieces however, as the "Oriole's Song," and "On disturbing a Hedge Dunnoc from her nest," are very tolerable. The "Pleasures of Ornithology" at the conclusion, is little but a display of the author's ingenuity in stringing together the barbarous mongrel names

devised, it would seem, for the occasion. We are at a loss to know why the work was ever published, if to gratify the author's vanity, it has certainly proved in that as in all other particulars a complete failure. The price was originally 15s.—it may now be had for 2s. and is worth no more.

Outline of the Smaller British Birds, for the use of Ladies and Young Persons. By ROBERT SLANEY, Esq. M.P., 2nd edition, 4s. 6d. 1833.

A right pleasant little work, and well adapted for those to whom it is addressed, among whom, it is, doubtless, popular. The greater part is culled from other authors, and this has been very judiciously performed. The story of the Pied Oystercatcher, (*Ostralega maculosa*,) shows that our Ornithological M.P. is also, in some of his researches, a practical observer.

The Zoologist's Text-Book; embracing the characters of the Classes, Orders and Genera, of almost the whole of the Animal Kingdom. By Captain THOMAS BROWN, 2 vols. 1833.

THE first volume consists of letter-press, the second of uncolored steel cuts. Whoever wishes to throw away 15s. cannot do better than procure BROWN's *Zoological Text-Book*. If instead of attempting to grasp at the whole of the Animal Kingdom, the author had confined himself to some one class, he would have produced a work of more value, though that is not saying much.

A Popular Guide to the Observation of Nature ; or Hints of Inducement to the study of Natural Productions and Appearances in their Connexions and Relations. By ROBERT MUDIE, 3s. 6d. 1832.

THIS is a sweet little volume—sometimes deep and profound, but always fascinating. It contains, however, we are sorry to see, evidences that the author is utterly ignorant of the true philosophy of the mind, and like all others in that state, has erred accordingly. We have only space to extract one short passage:—"The dew forms into beautiful drops on those surfaces, between which and it there is a sort of repulsion. Vegetable leaves when in action have that quality, and hence the beauty of the morning dew on the grass. If those who are fond of looking at gems would get up in the morning when the dew-drops are large on the grass, and the sun's rays low and slanting, they would, by just sitting or standing a few minutes with their back to the sun, get a gratis sight of a far finer casket than any monarch on earth can boast of possessing. Many people make a boast of having been at court, and having seen the Queen in her jewels ; but if they would get up in time, they might, almost any sunny morning, see the Queen of Nature in her jewels, and gain both health and time by the sight." p. 198. The whole volume is characterised by close observation and originality of thought, which, however, would have been more generally appreciated had the style of the author been more transparent.

The Natural History of Birds. By ROBERT MUDIE, 4s. 6d. 1834. ORR and SMITH.

THIS little volume is beautifully printed, contains 400 pages, is elegantly bound, and full of neatly executed wood cuts—and all this for 4s. 6d. Well has it been said, that “it is the cheapest work that ever issued from the press.”* We shall give a sample of the spirit in which our author looks at nature:—
“Every production of nature, when rightly studied, becomes, in aftertime, an index to that part of nature in connexion with which it is found, and a bird, as being one the most remarkable of these productions, is more easily suggested to the mind than any other, and more readily brings along with it all the relations of its locality, and all the phenomena of the time when it is observed. On this account he who knows all the Birds of the British Islands, in their connexions and relations, can, whenever he is rightly minded, live mentally in all the varied scenes of the British Islands, and, therefore, enjoy all the pleasure of them, be his bodily locality where it may. He may be on the bleak moor where there is not a shrub, in the close lane of the city where even the sky is barely seen, in the solitude of a prison-house, or laid on a bed of sickness, deprived of the use of sight, and with all his

It has however since been eclipsed by a work, which cannot be too highly spoken of—COMBE's *Constitution of Man*, which is now sold for 1s. and 6d. ! TWO THOUSAND copies were sold in TEN DAYS.

senses dull and indifferent to present objects. But still, if his former study has been true to nature, nature will not desert him in the hour of affliction, or even at the moment of dissolution. Even then, the Eagle and the Tarmigan shall fetch him to the mountain, and he shall climb with boundling heart and sinewed limbs, and the healthful breeze shall play around him, and he shall look down upon a hundred valleys, scan all their inhabitants, and taste all their freshness, till the grief of the body become clean forgotten in the enjoyment of the mind. Or, if other scenes please him more, the warbler shall lead him to the groves and bowery glades of the forest, and the green leaves shall play in the scented breeze, and the flowers shall blow, and the song of nature shall be sweet and varied, and he shall anew be "the happy boy" even in the extremity of decrepitude. Or the sea-bird shall conduct him to the cliff, against whose caverned base the waves of ten thousand seas have thundered in vain; and he shall look upon the majesty of the waters; and the ship shall appear, and he shall mentally get on board, girdle the world, and visit every scene and tribe of men under the sun." *Introduction*, p. 22.

We cannot take leave of this excellent volume without noticing an extraordinary misconception into which the reviewer in the *Analyst* has fallen concerning the meaning of the author:—"We absolutely disagree," says the reviewer, "with any attempt to make the classification depend on mere

extremities alone, and our opinion is more strongly confirmed when we consider Mr. MUDIE's arguments. He states the fact [feet] of the Blue Tit, which he exemplifies by a very clever sketch, to be similar with those of the Rook; yet we confess that we should be averse to classing our little, fluttering, merry friends of the blue cap and yellow waistcoat, the constant attendants on the kennel or kitchen door, in the same genera [genus] with the aristocratic and clerical Rook, the tenant of a lofty avenue, or the secluded precincts of a college." Vol. II. p. 270. The passage in Mr. MUDIE's work which seems to have induced those remarks is the following:—"Generally speaking, the omnivorous birds are the best walkers, and those which eat small seeds from the stems of plants are the best perchers; but there are exceptions. The Rook is one of the best walkers; and the Tits are among the most dexterous perchers: so that their feet may be taken as examples." p. 252. Whether this quotation warrants the representation of the reviewer or not we leave to the judgment of the reader.

Compendium of Zoology; being a description of more than three hundred Animals, 1818.

THIS volume contains an ample allowance of the errors usually found in works on Natural History intended for children, some of which we may pro-

bably point out at a future opportunity. The history of the Ring Pigeon, the Crane, the Black Cap, the Dipper, the Kingfisher, the Sparrow, &c. are full of these, and may be termed "original," though that they are "confirmed by actual observation" is rather more doubtful. Many of the woodcuts are good—*some* of them improvements on BEWICK'S, as the Starling, the Yellow Bunting, and the Wall Redstart.

A Manual of British Vertebrated Animals, or descriptions of all the Animals belonging to the Classes Mammalia, Aves, Reptilia, Amphibia, and Pisces, which have hitherto been observed in the British Islands. By LEONARD JENYNS, 13s., 1835.

A most welcome addition to the library of the British Zoologist, and one which entirely eclipses FLEMING'S faulty, ill arranged, and defective publication. It contains the most complete compendium of British Ornithology hitherto published, and should be possessed by all who wish to obtain a bird's-eye view of the present state of our fauna. The only flaw in the plan, as it seems to us, is the obtrusion of *subgeneric* names, which are always uncalled for, but more particularly as denoted by Mr. JENYNS, for he has not brought them into play, but merely stuck them up over the description, which is, to say the least of it, unnecessary. This author has explained his views in LOUDON'S *Magazine of Natural History*, but they do not appear to us to rest on a sound basis. The old sections of TEMMINK are now abandoned

generally, and we may almost add universally, and the "subgenera" will doubtless share the same fate. When we see the *Emberiza nivalis* of LINNEUS, called "Snow (Longspur) Bunting, *Emberiza (Plectrophanes) nivalis*,"* we immediately recognise the object, but when the "subgeneric" name instead of being brought into use is stuck up at the top of the page, it becomes a mere idle fancy. We wish likewise that the generic name had been always written at full length, and that the English name had *preceded*, instead of *succeeded* the Latin name; and likewise that the English generic name had accompanied the Latin, as in FLEMING'S work: all these apparent trifles, would have conspired to render the work plainer. The synonyms are, we are glad to see, scrupulously exact, but in addition to the authors, generally quoted, TEMMINK, MONTAGU, and SELBY, we think that either AUDUBON or WILSON, (the former would be preferable) had been also referred to. A "Latin Index" as well as an "English Index" is given, and both of them are alphabetical. In the latter many of the provincial names are included, and all these are marked in italics; these we think were not called for. Thus, who would think of looking for "*Tit Lark*," or "*Little Ring Dotrel*," or "*Brambling*,"—where is even the tyro, we would ask, that would not know to look for Pipit, Plover, and Finch? Then again, there should have been another index, in systematic

or with the English and Latin names, similar to that in SELBY'S *British Ornithology*. The paper, printing, and getting up of the work, leave nothing to be desired, and we conclude, by congratulating the author on the great benefit he has conferred on the Zoologist; and the Zoologist again on his good fortune in having such a treasure within his reach.

The Miscellany of Natural History; vol. I. Parrots. By Captain THOMAS BROWN, 6s., 1833.

THIS work has but small claim on the attention of the scientific reader, and is in truth of not much real value to any one. It is however prettily got up, and some of the details about AUDUBON are interesting; the greater part is, however, copied. In the preface it is announced, that "it is the intention of the Editors, in the first instance, to give figures and descriptions of all the larger groups of animals, and afterwards to fill up the series by volumes containing a variety of genera; their ultimate aim being to form a complete Natural History of the Animal Kingdom." We are not aware that the work has been continued.

Elements of Natural History in the Animal Kingdom: chiefly intended for the use of Schools and Young Persons. By WILLIAM MAJOR, 10th edition, 1820.

THIS book gives sketches of the principal animals, and is pretty copiously sprinkled with errors:—

"Having for many years been collecting information respecting the Swallow-tribes, which may perhaps sometime be given to the public, on this occasion I shall only observe, that the impression on my mind is, they lie torpid during the brumal season. The reasons on which this opinion is founded, would lead me too far to explain in a work of this nature." Yet this can hardly be wondered at in MAJOR, when the immortal GEORGE CUVIER expressed the same opinion. WILSON has treated the absurdity with no sparing hand, (see Art. Barn Swallow.) The present volume contains some miserable cuts: the work is useless and worse than useless.

The Feathered Tribes of the British Islands: By ROBERT MUDIE, 2 vols. 8vo £1. 1s. 1834. WHITTAKER and Co.

THIS is, without any exception, the most truly charming work on Ornithology which has hitherto appeared from the days of WILLUGHBY downwards. Other authors describe, MUDIE paints, other authors give the husk, MUDIE, the kernel. We most heartily concur with the opinion expressed of this work by LEIGH HUNT (a kindred spirit) in the first few numbers of his right pleasant *London Journal*. The descriptions of BEWICK, PENNANT, LEWIN, and even of MONTAGU, will not for an instant stand comparison with the spirit-stirring emanations of MUDIE's "living pen" as it has well been called.

We are not acquainted with any author who so felicitously unites beauty of style with strength and *nerve* of expression—he does not specify, he paints, and instead of giving us so many disjointed parts, he places before us a perfect whole. The work is obviously the product of long, patient, and continued observation of nature, and the results of his observations he has so contrived to embody in words as to impart a portion of his enthusiasm to his readers, and induce them to follow the same line of observation.

The author is not, like BEWICK or PENNANT, a mere dry compiler, nor like WILSON or AUDUBON, a mere fact hunter and recorder, but uniting in himself the enthusiasm of the latter with the industry of the former, aided by a natural genius superior to them all, he has produced a transcript of nature, inferior only to the original. Now we are dashed headlong through the blue expanse in company with the disdainful Eagle, next we are led a hopeless chase after the nimble Dipper, and anon find ourselves deafened by the chaotic uproar of the countless numbers of alarmed and irritated sea birds.

Nor do we find mere bare facts, which however truthfully represented, and beautifully described, are in themselves as valueless, as raw material before worked, or bricks in the kiln. Our author has drawn philosophic inductions, and traced well-known occurrences to their source, and followed them in all their ramifications, without which, (however interesting)

details must be barren of utility, and fit only to amuse "babes and sucklings." Whoever has read the description of the Eagles, the Avoset, the Rook, the Green Woodpecker, the Wood Lark, the Tits, the Natatores—or any other parts of the volumes, and is not imbued with the spirit of the author, we should pronounce to be "too cold or too callous ever to become an Ornithologist."

The work is nevertheless not without its defects. In the first place the classification is bad. Thus the Kinglets are classed with the Wren: they would have been much more appropriately placed with the Tits: then again the genera Reedling, Redstart, Fauvets, Freeling, &c., &c., are all lumped together under the name *Curruca*, while the Duck Family is very minutely divided. Then again our author commences with the *Rasores* instead of the *Raptores*, and all throughout there are similar instances: he should have taken SELBY for his guide. The *Fringillidæ* is given in the second volume devoted to the water birds! This however we can scarcely impute to the author, but looks like a trick of the publisher to get the volumes of equal thickness! The frontispieces (the Eagle and the Gannet) are worthy of the work they adorn, but we think the rest of the plates would be better any where but in the *Feathered Tribes*; some of them, as the Nightjar, the Lapwing, the Jack Snipe, the Marsh Reedling, &c., would disgrace any publication, and those whose execution may be pronounced almost perfect, as the

Blue Tit, the Kentish Plover, the Red-throated Diver, and the Eider Duck, are eye sores rather than ornaments, from being crammed 2, 3, or even more into one octavo page! These are said to be "from nature;" we may well exclaim with AUDUBON—"From Nature!—How often are these words used, when at a glance he who has seen the perfect and beautiful forms of birds, quadrupeds, or other objects, as they have come from the hand of Nature, discovers the representation is not that of *living* Nature." The vignettes are very pretty, though it must be remarked, that the nest of the Dipper is not true to nature. The index is alphabetical; but there is only one: another should by all means be given on the plan of SELBY'S, the land birds in the first volume, and the water birds in the second: we have often felt the want of this. The work amply deserves the popularity it enjoys, and with the amendments at which we have hinted, would become a valuable standard work, and will descend to our latest posterity a monument of the talent and industry of its author, when BEWICK, (excellent as an *artist*) and other authors, who have drawn from the "stagnant pool" rather than from the "living fountain," shall have perished and "left not a wreck behind."

Since the foregoing was written, the second edition has appeared. We think that any additions which might have been made would amply have covered any additional expense of printing: the publisher however, it seems, has thought otherwise, for the

number of pages is not increased, although the number of birds is! If the author would apply himself to a complete work on British Ornithology (at least twice the size of the present work,) instead of frittering away his time on so many little works, he would be a fit candidate for the "greenest laurels ever obtained in the field of literature and science."

Fauna Orcadensis, or Natural History of the Quadrupeds, Birds, Reptiles, and Fishes of Orkney and Shetland. By the Rev. GEORGE LOW, 4to. Edinburgh, 1813.

A most valuable and interesting volume which deserves a place on the shelf of every British Zoologist. It was undertaken at the suggestion of PENNANT to whose work it has some resemblance in style. The world is indebted to the celebrated Dr. LEACH for the publication of the *Fauna Orcadensis*, and this is not among the least of the benefits conferred on the Zoological public by that zealous naturalist.

Book of the Seasons ; or the Calendar of Nature. By WILLIAM HOWITT. 2nd edition, 1833.

THIS sweet little work is the product of a quaker, whose meek spirit blended with a certain buoyancy and joyousness pervades the work throughout. It is divided into twelve parts, each part treating of the various productions of the month ; as the different birds, insects, and fish which then arrive or depart.

The whole work is written in the true poetic vein, but would not have been the worse for a little more of science.

Architecture of Birds: 1 vol. 4s. 6d. *Habits of Birds*, 1 vol. 4s. 6d. *Faculties of Birds*, 1 vol. 4s. 6d. By JAMES RENNIE.

A sad jumble these, which taken at their best are but the products of scissors and paste. We like the first the best of the three, and the cuts (especially in the first and last) are very excellent. Several of these however are wrongly labelled. Thus at p. 109 is an excellent figure of the Chimney Swallow, (*H. rustica*,) under which is written "Window Swallow, (*H. urbica*.)" The nest and eggs at p. 202 appear to our vision more like those of the Yellow Bunting than of the Coalhood, and the nest of the Long-tailed Tit, never had its prototype in Nature. The subject of faculties of birds is far beyond our author's comprehension, for his forte is not in original research or profundity of thought, but in quotation.

The Naturalist's Library; conducted by Sir WILLIAM JARDINE. Ornithology. Humming Birds, 2 vols. 12s. Gallinaceous Birds, 1 vol. 6s. Game Birds, 1 vol. 6s. Pigeon Family, 1 vol. 6s.

THE five volumes here enumerated, illustrate four families, namely the Colibree Family, (*Colubridæ*,) the Pavo Family, (*Palvonidæ*,) the Grouse Family, (*Tetraonidæ*,) and the Pigeon Family, (*Columbidæ*.)

Each volume contains thirty-two colored plates, the portrait of an eminent naturalist, and a vignette. LINNEUS, PENNANT, ARISTOTLE, PLINY, and RAFFLES, are the naturalists whose portraits adorn the volumes, and all, except the Grecian, are admirably represented. On the whole we think that this work is well calculated to aid in the diffusion of that taste for Natural History which is now become so general. It is altogether free from that affectation of avoidance of science so manifest in some periodicals of a like nature, for the mere sake of counting popularity, and which is as offensive to the naturalist as it is detrimental to the general reader.

Manual of the Ornithology of the United States and of Canada. By THOMAS NUTTAL. 2 vols. 1832.

THIS is a highly interesting work, and one which will be very useful to those who wish for a *multum in parvo* on American birds. It is sprinkled with wood cuts, in favor of which we cannot say much, but the interesting details of the *author* atone for the deficiencies of the *artist*. The first volume appeared in 1832, and the second in 1834.

The Animal Kingdom, described and arranged in conformity with its organization. By GEORGE CUVIER. Translated and considerably enlarged by E. GRIFFITH. WHITTAKER and Co.

A very valuable and elaborate undertaking, and no pains have apparently been spared to bring together

any information on the Animal Kingdom within the reach of the editors. The class of Birds is complete in 3 volumes, which may be had demy octavo, price £5 8s., or demy quarto, India proofs, £10 16s.

Preliminary Discourse on the Study of Natural History. 1 vol. 6s.
A Treatise on the Geography and Classification of Animals. 1 vol. 6s.
The Natural History and Classification of Quadrupeds. By W. SWAINSON, 1 vol. 6s.

THESE three volumes form vols. 59, 66, and 72 of LARDNER'S *Cabinet Cyclopaedia*, and it may fairly be questioned, whether within so small a compass there exists in the English Language, such a valuable mass of information on the subject of which they treat, so ably explained or so lucidly expressed. They are truly the product of a masterly mind. In the chapter on nomenclature we have given an extract from the second of these volumes, which will convey a very good idea of the style and temper in which Mr. SWAINSON has treated his subject. The same calm, temperate, yet masterly mode of discussion is carried throughout. The style is remarkably free from those rugged, dark, verbose, scarce intelligible sentences which occasionally disfigure the writings of even some of our best writers on Natural History; and at all times preserves an easy flow, and if but seldom sparkling, is always limpid. These volumes are the first of a series by the same author; and will form a complete sketch of Zoology in all its branches. We believe that there

will be two volumes on Ornithology. It was stated in the prospectus that the volumes would be published "at short intervals." This promise, however, has not been hitherto kept, for six months or more have elapsed between the appearance of each of the volumes now before the public. The *Series of Zoology* when completed, will be a lasting and worthy monument of the author, and it will be read, and studied too, long after the author and the generation for whose enlightenment it was written, shall have passed away.

TEMMINK mentions several foreign works either published or publishing: among these is one by NAUMAN, which is thus spoken of:—"Among the numerous works of luxury which are published in numbers with colored plates, honorable mention must be made of a new edition in 8vo. by NAUMAN. This work has now reached the seventh volume of letter-press, and No. 193 of plates. It concludes with the genus Dunlin (*Tringa*) inclusive. The descriptions are made with precision, but are perhaps too minute. On each plate is represented from 3 to 6 figures of birds engraved and colored by the author with so much care and precision, that there is absolutely nothing left to be desired; it is truly a master work. Its title is:—*Naturgeschichte der vogel deut chlarde*. Il se recommande a tous egards.

M. BOITARD, of Paris, has commenced a work on the Birds of Europe, with lithographic plates, in 4to. very carefully colored. It is to be regretted that

this work is not continued. The first number contains the Preyers.

In 1824 the *Skandinavischen Fauna* (Scandinavian Fauna) by NILSON, was published. This however, I have not seen. Another work by the same author, named *Illuminerade figurer till Scandinaviens Fauna med text*, ranks high among books of luxury. The first volume, (4to) contains all the mammals and all the birds of Scandinavia. This beautiful volume, is handsomely got up, is replete with interesting observations, and may be depended on for fidelity of description. The 25 plates of mammals, and the 75 figures of birds are carefully executed, well colored, and very exact. The text is in Swedish.

WERNER is now publishing in Paris, lithographic figures of all the species found in Europe. The series is intended to accompany and illustrate TEMMINK'S *Manuel d'Ornithologie*. TEMMINK himself has furnished the author with many rare specimens from his own unrivalled museum, and thus it may be expected, that when completed, it will be one of the most complete series of plates on the Birds of Europe in existence. The cost is 6s. a number.

In 1825 appeared *Ornithologie provinciale, ou description, avec figures coloriees, de tous les oiseaux qui habitent constamment la Provence, ou qui n'y sont que de passage*, by ROUX. This work forms two volumes, with two of plates, only a few

numbers are now wanting to complete this enterprise, which contains much to interest the ornithologist no less than the general reader, by the numerous local observations and exact descriptions. The lithographic figures are by the hand of a master, and the coloring is sufficiently careful. Some new species are here described and figured for the first time.

Ornithologia Toscana, par PAOLO SAVI; 3 vols. in 8vo. This work of SAVI is very interesting on account of the local observations with which it abounds, and for details of the migratory species in the part of Italy to which it relates.

CHARLES BONAPARTE is bringing out a new work called *Iconografia della fauna italica*, Rome, 1832.

This beautiful work is in 4to, of which four or five numbers have appeared. It is intended to include all classes of the animal kingdom, or all the animals found in Italy; this great enterprise does honor to its talented projector. The plates of the different classes of animals are lithographed with care, and well colored; those of the fish in particular, are absolutely unexceptionable. As yet very few birds have been figured, one plate in each number. The text is excellent, and the whole work well got up. We have only one fault to find with this successful undertaking, namely, the length of time which elapses between the appearances of the numbers: in all other points it is perfect.

Descriptions of the Rapacious Birds of Britain; by WILLIAM MACGILLIVRAY. 9s. 1836.

THIS work contains some interesting particulars relating to the British Preyers, though the author's style is far from being so pleasant as might be wished; he has now and then endeavoured to imitate that of AUDUBON, (to which author the book is dedicated) but with what success the reader shall judge for himself: the extract shall be taken from the history of the Common or Blue Harrier:—"Should we on a fine summer day, betake us to the outfields bordering an extensive moor, on the sides of the Pentland, the Ochill, or the Peebles Hills, we might chance to see the Harrier, though Hawks [the Falcon family] have been so much persecuted, that one may sometimes travel a whole day without meeting so much as a Kestrel. But we are now wandering among thickets of furze and broom, where the Blue Milkwort, the Purple Pinguicula, the Yellow Violet, the Spotted Orchis, and all the other plants that render the desert so delightful to the strolling botanist, peep forth in modest beauty from their beds of green moss. The Golden Plover, stationed on a little knoll, on which he has just alighted, gives out his shrill note of anxiety, for he has come not to welcome us to his retreats, but if possible to prevent us from approaching them, or at least to decoy us from his brood; the Lapwing, on broad and dusky wing, hovers and plunges over head, chiding us with

its querulous cry ; the Whin Chat flits from bush to bush, warbles its little song from the top spray, or sallies forth to seize a heedless fly whizzing joyously along in the bright sunshine. As we cross the sedgy bog, the Snipe starts with loud scream from among our feet, while on the opposite bank the Gor Cock [Red Ptarmigan] raises his scarlet-fringed head above the heath, and cackles his loud notes of anger or alarm, as his mate crouches amid the brown herbage.

“ But see, a pair of searchers not less observant than ourselves have appeared over the slope of the bare hill. They wheel in narrow curves at the height of a few yards ; round and round they fly, their eyes no doubt keenly bent on the ground beneath. One of them, the pale blue bird, is now stationary, hovering on almost motionless wing ; down he shoots like a stone ; he has clutched his prey, a young Lapwing perhaps, and off he flies with it to a bit of smooth ground, where he will devour it in haste. Meanwhile his companion, who is larger, and of a brown color, continues her search ; she moves along with gentle flappings, sails for a short space, and judging the place over which she has arrived, not unlikely to yield something that may satisfy her craving appetite, she flies slowly over it, now contracting her circles, now extending them, and now for a few moments hovering as if fixed in the air. At length, finding nothing, she shoots away, and hies to another field, but she has

not proceeded far when she spies a frog by the edge of a small pool, and instantly descending, thrusts her sharp talons through its sides. It is soon devoured, and in the mean time the male comes up. Again they fly off together, and were you to watch their progress, you would see them traverse a large space of ground, wheeling, gliding, and flapping, in the same manner, until at length, having obtained a supply of savoury food for their young, they would fly off with it."

The style of the author has not the strength and beauty of MUDIE's, nor the neatness and conciseness of SELBY's, nor the full flow of AUDUBON's, and we think that the author's talents are more in the pencil than the pen. In this opinion we are confirmed by the beautiful wood-cuts which adorn this volume: the representations of the head of the Golden Eagle and of the Tawny Toadeater are especially beautiful. AUDUBON, who is no mean judge, having himself the organs of form and color very large, affirms that MACGILLIVRAY is the best delineator of birds with whom he is acquainted, and this makes us the more anxious to see the fruits of his labors, which have now we believe, extended to considerable extent. A very considerable portion of the present work is taken up with accounts of the feathers, which we cannot but think would have been better omitted, except perhaps in a few instances.

A History of the Rarer species of British Birds; by T. C. EYTON, Esq. LONGMAN & Co. Parts I and II, 8vo. 3s. 6d. each.

MR. EYTON, the author of this work, some time ago announced his intention of completing BEWICK'S *History of British Birds* by publishing figures of such species as were omitted either through accident or necessity in the 6th edition (1826) of that work, and the present publication is the fulfilment of that promise. The two first numbers are now before us; the third and concluding one we have not yet seen. The Alpine Aurn, with which the work begins, although not so handsome a looking bird as that in the 1832 edition of BEWICK, is, we suspect, truer to nature, and certainly appears to have none of the characteristics of the Vulture-family. The Red-legged Falcon is prettily done, but it has not the firmness and decision of air of BEWICK'S Falcons. The Blackthroated Redstart is a nice wood-cut, but if the Firecrested Kinglet is a faithful representation of the species, it certainly cannot remain in the genus *Regulus*. The body is far too long, and the character of the spruce little Kinglets is by no means discernible in this unfortunate attempt: it is curious that BEWICK himself failed in the same genus. The Shore Lark and the Mealy Linnet are excellent representations: the latter was till lately, thought to be a mere variety of the Redpoll Linnet. The Whitewinged Crossbill (*Crucirostra leucop-tera*) is a showy cut, but whether it is a correct one or not we can scarcely judge.

The second part contains water birds. These we do not like so well as the land birds, and the plan of nomenclature is rather novel than scientific. Thus he has given the name *Mergoides rufina* to the Redcrested Pochard, and to that appellation instead of appending his own name, he has tacked on that of LINNEUS! This is, to say the least, very unfair, for the student would commit this and other names to memory under the impression of their having been given by the Swedish Naturalist, instead of, as in reality, by an English amateur. If an author gives a name, he must take it on his own responsibility, and not endeavour to puff it into notice by attempting to palm it off as that of another. The catalogue at the end is as bad as one should have expected from FLEMING or RENNIE, and the plan is obscure and unintelligible. The tale pieces are at an humble distance from BEWICK's: one of them is, however, well hit off—a cart full of boxes in which the driver is asleep, unmindful of the “*with speed*” on the luggage: the horse equally unconscious of the importance of charge, is quietly grazing by the road side. The work is a pretty one, but might have been much better.

British Songsters; being Popular Descriptions of the British Choristers of the Groves; by NEVILLE WOOD, Esq. 1836.

THE work of which we have just given the title, will shortly appear, though we regret to say that it will not be illustrated by cuts. It will contain

detailed descriptions of the species in SELBY'S *British Ornithology* included between the Missel Thrush, and the Rosecolored Amzel. The descriptions are minute, and include even the most trivial circumstances which ornithologists seem hitherto to have overlooked. As a specimen of the style of the work, we present our readers with the following extract, detailing circumstances in the history of the Missel Thrush:—"When walking in a garden containing all kinds of fruit trees, in the summer of 1833, the gardener, who, by the way, is by no means more favourable to the feathered race than the rest of his tribe, was prowling about in search of his prey. After a short while, my ears were saluted by the report of a gun from the quarter in which I had but two minutes before observed the gardener with his gun. His aim I knew to be fatal, and on nearing him, to discover the nature of his prize, was not a little astonished to find it the bird whose habits we are now detailing, and still more astonished on learning that it had been feeding on the red currants to a degree which had evidently greatly excited the destructiveness of the predaceous gardener. I might have doubted the truth of his story, and have taken it to be merely an excuse for destroying the bird, had I not since frequently verified the fact from personal observation. It is in walled gardens, partially surrounded by trees, that its frugivorous propensities are most apparent. In such situations, and especially when the young are rearing,

its depredations in the garden are very considerable, and currants, gooseberries, raspberries, strawberries, and peas, seldom come amiss to the young birds. As long as any individual of the human race is to be seen in the garden, the Missel Thrush will seldom venture its precious life there, but the enemy is no sooner out of sight, than it appears from its retreat, and feasts at its leisure until again disturbed." The nomenclature adopted by the author is almost perfect, and the plan is that which we have ourselves contended for at length in the earlier part of this little work. It would have been better, we think, to have given the volume and page of the works in the synonyms, and likewise to refer to JENYNS, and MUDIE, in preference to LATHAM, whose works may now safely be left on the hands of the Bookseller.

The Animal Kingdom; of GEORGE CUVIER, translated by Captain THOMAS BROWN; Monthly Numbers, 1s.

THIS is, we think, the first work of real utility in which our author has engaged, and the present undertaking is one calculated equally to reflect credit on its editor, and confer important advantages on the Naturalist. What is added is duly distinguished from what is translated, by a difference of type, which greatly enhances the value of the work. The plates, two of which accompany each monthly number, are executed admirably considering the price of the work, the Quadrupeds and Insects, are

especially commendable. We have only one fault to find with the present undertaking—the inconveniently large size.—It is just twice the size of LEIGH HUNT's *London Journal* ! and this on purpose that many species might be crammed into one plate—a defect of itself. A work of this kind should not exceed in size PARTINGTON's *Natural History*, or AUDUBON's *Ornithological Biography*, at the outside ; even the *Penny Magazine* would be too large. The plates are numbered on the plan we suggested in our review of the *British Oology*, and which was even more necessary there than here.

The British Cyclopædia of Natural History, combining a Scientific classification of Animals, Plants, and Minerals, with a popular view of their habits, economy, and structure. Edited by CHARLES F. PARTINGTON. Monthly Numbers, 1s. each.

THE Editor has been the means of collecting a vast mass of interesting matter which he, like the queen bee in a hive, has caused to be stored up for the use of the community. One of the principal writers is MUDIE, who has contributed articles on almost every branch of Natural History. We are sorry that this eminent writer should continue to disfigure his writings by such frequent displays of ignorance on the science of the mind, one of which in the article *Elephant* (which we presume to be by MUDIE,) surpasses any thing we have ever seen :—"In a state of nature the female Elephant appears to have very

little attachment to her young, less so than most animals; for it is stated that when a female with her young one is captured, two or three days' absence will make her entirely forget it—though the young one itself recognizes her, and utters the most plaintive cries for the purpose of attracting her attention. This fact, which appears to be well authenticated, *is pretty strong evidence against the sagacity, affection, and other HALF-REASONING qualities* which fiction has attributed to the Elephant.”—Vol. II., p., 402. The merest tyro in Phrenology could inform the writer of this sapient passage, that Philoprogenitiveness (the organ which gives a fondness for young) may be very small, while Adhesiveness, (affection in general) Causality, and in short all the other organs may be very strong. A very slender acquaintance with Biography will suffice to recal numerous instances of the kind.

PARTINGTON does not appear to have Order “largely developed,” for the arrangement of the matter is not near so satisfactory as might be wished. Thus he sometimes heads an article by the Latin generic name, as *Emberiza*, *Gulo*, *Grus*, &c., at other times under the English name, as Beaver, Gull, Grebe, Bee-eater, &c. At other times again, an account of the genera is given under the family name, as *Fringillidæ*, *Falconidæ*, &c. How much better to have given the characters of the family under the family name, those of the genus under the generic name, and then refer to the species under their

alphabetic names. Latterly also, we hear that the articles as sent in by the writers are curtailed, as that of the *Fringillidæ* which has also many errors of the press, as "painted beauties" for "painted Buntings"! There is likewise a representation of the Corn Bunting, although that species is not once mentioned in the article, and although the same wood-cut had been given in the article *Emberiza*. The paper likewise is much thinner and of inferior quality to what it was in the first volume. These circumstances show a greater anxiety on the part to the Editor for a successful pecuniary speculation, than for the production of a complete scientific work. The plan of the work seems to have been scarcely sufficiently matured before-hand, and it was ill-advised to announce the completion of the work in three volumes, when twice that number would have been preferable.

The Zoological Journal: Conducted by N. A. VIGORS, Quarterly, 10s. a Number. Vols. I, II, III, and IV.

THIS publication was commenced in 1824, and contains some valuable papers, especially one by Mr. VIGORS, in the 2nd number, on Nomenclature, and another by MACLEAY, on the circular system. Colored plates accompany the work, which render it rather expensive. It is now, we believe, discontinued.

Magazine of Natural History, Conducted by J. C. LOUDON, Esq.
Monthly Numbers, 2s. each. Vols. I. to VIII.

THIS work was commenced in May, 1828 ; and was continued to September, 1834, in two monthly numbers, when at the earnest request of many correspondents it was altered to the monthly form. It has completed its 8th volume, and contains a rich fund of information and anecdotes, as well as several beautiful articles, by WATERTON, DOVASTON, &c., and also others in a more matter of fact style, as those by BREE, JOHNSTON, &c. We think, however, that the publication has retrograded within these two or three years, and that scientific communications are too systematically excluded. The range which it takes in is also too extended for so small a publication, which excludes articles sometimes for upwards of a year.

The Field Naturalist's Magazine ; Edited by JAMES RENNIE. 16 Nos. 8vo. Orr and Smith. 1833.

THIS publication was commenced in January, 1833, and was continued in monthly numbers till April, 1834, when it was suddenly dropped before it had arrived at the middle of the second volume, without a word of explanation. To drop a work in the middle of a volume is not very handsome, and RENNIE will find this and other shabby practices of certain editors ably exposed in LOUDON'S *Magazine of Natural History*.

We shall conclude our notices of books with

THE PLAN
OF A PROPOSED
NEW MAGAZINE,
TO BE DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO
ZOOLOGY AND BOTANY.

It appears to the proposers of this New Periodical, that there is at present a great want of some work wherein the progress and discovery of Zoology and Botany can be regularly communicated; and that there is now no such work in course of publication, for the many existing periodicals, otherwise excellent, are either devoted to a more extensive range of subjects, or are conducted upon a plan more suited to gain popularity than to advance science; that there is a rising band of young and zealous scientific Naturalists, who want some medium for the regular publication of their researches, and whose communications and subscriptions would amply support a magazine conducted upon truly scientific principles.

To endeavour to supply this blank in our Zoological and Botanical Literature, "THE MAGAZINE OF ZOOLOGY AND BOTANY" is proposed. It will be

devoted exclusively to those branches of Natural Science, and will be entirely under the superintendence of SIR W. JARDINE, Bart., P. J. SELBY, Esq., and Dr. JOHNSON, of Berwick. It will be published on the first day of every second month. Each number will contain six sheets of octavo letter-press, with illustrative plates and wood-cuts. Its price, per number, will be 3s. 6d., or £1. 1s. yearly. The outline of its plan is proposed to be:—

SECTION I. *Original Papers*.—Monographs ; History of any particular Class, Description of Species ; Details of Animal Structure ; Disquisitions on the Habits, Affinities, and Distribution of Animals, and Plants ; Essays on Nomenclature ; Biographies.

SECTION II. *Reviews*.—Reviews properly speaking ; retrospective Reviews ; Bibliographical Notices ; Notices of Works in preparation.

SECTION III.—*Translations, &c.*—Translations of important and interesting Papers from the French, German, and Italian Journals, with a short and general analysis of the contents of those periodicals ; extracts from Voyages and Travels, and other Works not professedly treating of Natural History.

SECTION IV.—*Intelligence*.—Zoological and Botanical ; Discovery or notices of new or rare Animals and Plants, not British ; Notices of Tours and Travellers ; Biographical Notices ; Proceedings (Zoological and Botanical) of Societies ; Appointments to Professorships, Lectureships, &c. : Obituary.

Your support is earnestly requested to "THE

MAGAZINE OF ZOOLOGY AND BOTANY," and the proposers of it will feel much obliged by your forwarding Zoological and Botanical papers and information as early as possible.

W. JARDINE.

THIS periodical will indeed be a welcome addition to the periodical visitors of the Naturalist, and we heartily hope that it may receive that encouragement its merits will doubtless deserve.

The Analyst ; A Journal of Science, Literature, Natural History and the Fine Arts. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co. Vols. I, II, & III.

THE *Analyst* was commenced in July, 1834, in Worcester, and was continued till July, 1835, in the monthly form, when having completed its second volume, it was changed to the quarterly form, and it was removed to Birmingham. It abounds in articles of great beauty and interest, and not a few to rivet the attention of the Ornithologist. Since its change from monthly to quarterly it has assumed a more scientific turn, and the tales are now excluded, so the work has now a more decided character. The articles by Dr. SHIRLEY PALMER on GOULD'S *Birds of Europe*, are of the highest interest, and we hope they will be regularly continued. We conclude by recommending this meritorious and talented periodical to the notice and patronage of the Naturalist, no less than the general reader. No. XVI. will be published on the 1st of July.

CATALOGUE
OF THE
BIRDS OF BRITAIN.

IN the following list it will be seen that I have scrupulously adhered to the plan of giving to each genus a peculiar generic name in the vernacular tongue, a plan which I have been the first to propose, as well as to execute. The German and French names which I have judged it proper to add, will be found of great utility to foreigners, many of whom, although taking an interest in ornithology, are not conversant with the Latin names, and still less with the English.

I have always aimed at priority in the choice of the names, but in no case that I am aware of, have I allowed that to interfere with truth or accuracy. For example: *Caprimulgus* has the claim of priority as the generic name of the Nightjar, but truth forbids its use: a new term has therefore been introduced. Nor have I permitted the consideration of a name being in general use, to exclude one, which, though little known, has the advantage of priority. As examples, may be mentioned, *Rubecula*, *Ruticilla*, *Torquilla*, *Ossifraga*, *Avosetta*, *Ostralega*, *Nucifraga*, and *Colubris*, which legitimate names

have been most unfairly and unwarrantably altered to *Erythaca*, *Fenicura*, *Yunx* (!) *Haliaetus*, *Recurvirostra*, *Hæmatopus*, *Cariacatactes*, and *Trochilus*. Instead of countenancing such petty efforts of certain nomenclators to get themselves into notice at the expense of their predecessors, it shall always be my desire to expose them.

Besides having a peculiar vernacular name for each genus, it will be found that I have in no case allowed the name of a genus to become entangled with a specific name, or another generic name, in order to form a name for a distinct genus—a very favorite practice with some nomenclators who carry on this manufacture by the wholesale. For example, Bull-Finch (*Pirula*,) Wall-Creeper (*Ticodroma*,) Sea-Eagle (*Ossifraga*,) Goose-Hawk (*Astur*,) Tit-Lark (*Anthus*,) Mag-Pye (*Pica*,) Bottle-Tit (*Afedula*,) &c., &c. This practice is also employed in the universal names, in which however, it is not the less reprehensible: as *Haliaetus*, *Erithrospiza*, *Nicticorax*, all which, and many others, are used even by scientific naturalists!

As for “sub-genera,” which have been introduced by some modern naturalists, and which have even yet some upholders, I think them, to say the least, very unscientific, not to say slovenly. What can be more clumsy than Passerine Nightling Owl, (*Strix Noctua passerina*,) Dusky Whinling Fauvet (*Ficedula Melizophilus fuscus*,) Sea Ossifrage Eagle (*Aquila Ossifraga albicilla*,) Some place the

“sub-generic” name between parentheses, as White (Ptarmigan) Grouse, (*Tetrao (Lagopus) mutus*.) The clumsiness of this mode of designation will be avoided, and the purpose of the projectors fully answered by the adoption of another mode, which was communicated to me by one of our first ornithologists—SELBY. That writer proposes to institute a new division, between the Section (“Sub-Family” of some authors,) and the Genus, to be named “Domus.” For example, the Rose Muffin (Longtailed Tit of old authors) is in a different genus from the Tits (*Parus*,) but in the same Domus.

However, let the propounder speak for himself:—
 * * * “The sub-genera of these naturalists are what I should call genera, as I think the term ought to be applied to the *lowest groups* of species. In this case we want another term for the higher groups they [the sub-generic naturalists] call genera. Perhaps *Domus* might be substituted and the termination *ites*.” This valuable suggestion will entirely supersede the necessity of the third name so clumsily introduced by the “sub-generic” naturalists, and likewise the as clumsy mode employed by some writers, of expressing the subordinate division by signs: as Rusty * Bunting, (*Emberiza * mustelina*;) Yellow † Bunting, (*Emberiza † citrinella*;) the intermediate mark being intended to denote the division to which the species belongs! This method has been humourously exposed by that acute writer

WILLIAM MACLEAY, but its absurdity is self-evident. To illustrate MR. SELBY's proposal, the situation of the Rose Muffin may be exhibited as follows :—

ROSE MUFLIN, (*Afedula rosea*.)

1. *Kingdom*. Animal-kingdom, *Animalia*.
2. *Division*. Vertebrated-d vision, *Vertebrata*.
3. *Class*. Bird-class, *Aves*.
4. *Order*. Perchers, *Insessores*.
5. *Tribe*. Fissirostral-tribe, *Fissirostres*.
6. *Family*. Treeling-family, *Silviadæ*.
7. *Section*. Tit-section, *Parianæ*.
8. *Domus*. Tit-domus, *Parites*.
9. *Genus*. Muffin, *Afedula*.
10. *Species*. Rose, *Rosea*.

With regard to the orthography, I have in some instances departed from the usual mode: this has been blamed by those who may truly be said to resemble silly sheep who would as soon follow their leader into a well as into a pasture, and with whom custom (right or wrong) is law, the least departure from which is no less than sacrilege. Mindless of the cackle of these gentry, I have altered where alteration seemed to be necessary, though it must eventually be carried much further. Several of the names of the birds are taken from the cry, as *Peewit*, *Cucoo*, *Chifchaf*, *Hoopoo*, *Tucan*, *Cocatoo*. It should therefore, of course, be the aim to make the written symbols represent the model as closely as possible, which is not the case if more letters than are

necessary are added. Yet so zealously is this impressment of letters carried on, that we sometimes find two, three, or even more, beyond the necessary number smuggled into the service. The English name of the genus *Cuculus* is generally written Cuckoo; the *k* is however superfluous, for the bird does not say, *Cuc-koo*, but *Cu-coo*. JENYNS has written it Cuckow, and formerly it was always thus written, though sometimes by way of ornament an *e* was added by way of a "terminal letter!" If, as some maintain, (though I think erroneously) the bird does sound the consonant in the middle twice, why then repeat it twice thus—*Cuccoo*, for surely the same sound should be represented by the same letter. The Greek is analagous to the latter mode, the French, Latin, and Italian to the former.

We frequently likewise see Chiffchaff, which is produced by the same unaccountable itch for which the English are celebrated, to multiply their letters. Why take four *f*'s, when two would do as well?—Chifchaf. The *Coturnix* is written Quail in English, but I have followed the French, and written it Cuail or Cwail: *c*, *k*, and *q* have exactly the same power, and are, in short, merely different forms for the same sound. In a little book lately published, LATHAM'S *Grammatical Sketch of the Greek Language*, two of them are very properly abandoned as unnecessary.

Among the universal names, *Silvia* is frequently written with a *y*, which is wrong, since the Romans wrote with an *i*: JOHNSON in his Dictionary also

writes "Sylvan better *Silvan*." In many other words as *Coridalla*, *Oxtix*, &c., the *y* is also frequently used which ought to be replaced by *i*, which represents the Greek letter: *y* is merely an *i* final. Another practice, still more erroneous, is that of rendering the Greek *f* by *ph* in English and Latin: as *Philomela*, *Phasianus*, *Calamophilus*, *Phalarope*, &c., which should be *Filomela*, *Fasianus*, *Calamofilus*, and *Falarope*. The French, Italians, and Germans, coincide in this view of the matter, but John Bull, must always have his own way, and that way is generally, as in this instance, the most round about.

Since writing thus far, I have read over the rules laid down by LINNEUS with regard to nomenclature, and was pleased to find that several of them coincided with what I have endeavoured here and elsewhere to enforce. I shall quote two or three of these.

4. Each generic name must be single.

8. Generic names compounded of two entire words are improper, and ought to be excluded.

11. Generic names compounded of the entire generic name of one plant or animal, and a portion of that of another, are unworthy of botany or zoology; such as *Cannacornus*, *Lilionarcissus*, *Laurocerasus*.

13. Generic names ending in *oides* are to be rejected; as *Agnimonoides*, *Asteroides*, also *Filomeloides*, *Meruloides*. These few rules quoted from the 31

given by LINNEUS, are precisely the same as those I have before enforced, and which will now be received with double weight. Generic names should always be written with a large letter, and specific names with a small, as *Aquila aurea* (golden Eagle,) in French *Aigle dore*, and in German *gold Adler*. In Latin and French this rule is always observed, because these languages have the advantage of having the specific name *after* the generic, but that unfortunately not being the idiom of the English or German, the specific name in those languages, is, for look's sake, written with a large letter. Sometimes the two are joined, as Whinchat, Skylark, which ought to be Whin Chat, Sky Lark. Sometimes the specific names are written as if specific and generic, as Black Cap, Gold Crested Kinglet, &c., which ought to be Blackcap, Goldcrested Kinglet.

In conclusion, I may state, that in the following catalogue I am indebted for the names Toadeater, Madj, and Oatear, to Mr. NEVILLE WOOD, and for Taffel, Muffin, and Fantail, to Mr. BLYTH. The other new names, as Nightling, Reedling, Pinnoc, Whinling, Kinglet, Goldwing, 'Tarroc, and some others, are my own. It was my intention to have separated the Eave Swallow, and Bank Swallow of the following list from the genus Swallow (*Hirundo*,) under the names Eave Martlet (*Martula fenestra*,) and Bank Martlet, (*Martula riparia*,) but on further consideration it appeared to me, that the characters of the new genus were not yet sufficiently

defined to warrant the innovation. Of the genus Shag (*Gulosus*, MONTAGU) we have no British species: but of the nearly related genus Cormorant (*Cormoranus*) we have, according to most authors, two species, though WATERTON says he is confident there is only one—the Black Cormorant (*Cormoranus carbo*.) The Pied Flycatcher has been separated from the Gray Flycatcher, at Mr. BLYTH's suggestion.

BIRDS OF BRITAIN.

White Abern.

Perenoptère brun,—Gemeine Aberne.
Abernus albus, *Wood*.

Whitetailed Ossifrage.

Ossifrage a queue-blanche,—See O.
Ossifraga albicilla, *Wood*.

Common Astur.

Autour sors,—Hunder Golke.
Astur palumbarius, *Bechst*.

White Jerling.

Gerfaut blanc,—Weis Gerfaut.
Cataractes candicans, *Wood*.

Tree Falcon.

Faucon hobereau,—Baum Falke.
Falco arboreus, *Wood*.

Stone Falcon.

Faucon émerillon,—Stein Falke.
Falco lapidarius, *Will*.

Wood Buzard.

Busard ordinaire,—Gemeiner Buzard.
Buteo vulgaris, *Bechst*.

Common Pern.

Bondrée ordinaire,—Wespen Pern.
Pernis vulgaris, *Wood*.

Golden Eagle.

Aigle doré,—Gold Adler.
Aquila aurea, *Will*.

Common Ospray.

Orfraie commun,—Flus Fischeaer.
Pandion vulgaris, *Blyth*.

Common Hawk.

Epervier commun,—Gemeiner Sperber.
Accipiter nisus, *Wood*.

Peregrine Falcon.

Faucon pèlerin,—Wander Falke.
Falco peregrinus, *Lin*.

Orangefooted Falcon.

Faucon a pieds-rouges,—Rothfussiger F.
Falco rufipes, *Bechst*.

Common Kestrel.

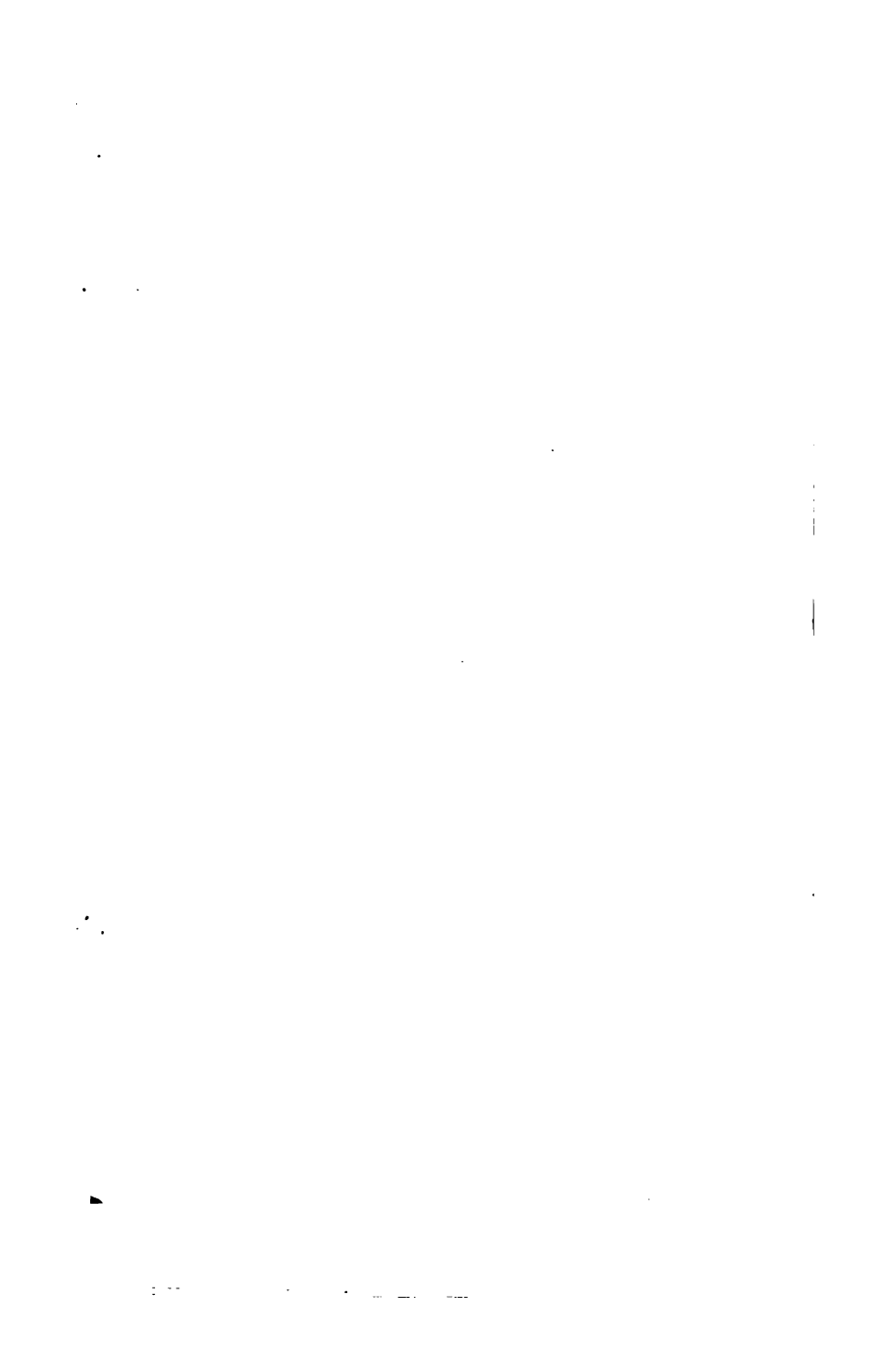
Creaserelle commun, Gemein Cressel.
Tinnunculus vulgaris, *Wood*.

Roughlegged Buzard.

Busard patue,—Rauchfussiger Busard.
Buteo lagopus, *Flem*.

Rufus Harrier.

Circe rouge,—Sumf Weihe.
Circus rufus, *Bris*.



Common Harrier.

Circe grenouillarde,—Halb Weihe.
Circus cianeus, *Flem.*

Rufus Kite.

Milan royal,—Rother Milan.
Milvus regalis, *Bris.*

Tawny Toadeater.

Duc brun,—Grosser Huhu.
Bubo flavipes, *Wood.*

Heath Madj.

Hibou brachiote,—Kurzohrige Saule.
Asio ulula, *N. Wood.*

Cinereus Surn.

Surnie blanche,—Schnee Harfang.
Surnia cinerea, *Wood.*

Barn Owl.

Effraie ordinaire,—Schleier Eule.
Strix flammea, *Lin.*

Funereal Nightling.

Cheveche luctuose,—Gemeine Kauz.
Noctua funerea, *Jenyns.*

Common Bee-eater.

Guépier vulgaire,—Gemeiner.
Merops vulgaris, *Wood.*

Chimney Swallow.

Hirondelle de cheminée,—Rauch S.
Hirundo garrula, *Blyth.*

Bank Swallow.

Hirondelle de rivage,—Ufer Schwalbe.
Hirundo riparia, *Aldr.*

Ashcolored Harrier.

Circe montagu,—Graue Weihe.
Circus cineraceus, *Shaw.*

Whiteheaded Forktail.

Elan a tete-blanche,—Gemeiner Elan.
Elanus albicapillus, *Wood.*

Longtufted Madj.

Hibou longiote,—Gemeine Saule.
Asio vulgaris, *Wood.*

Ivy Zorc.

Zorc vulgaire,—Gemeiner Zorc.
Zorca arborea, *Wood.*

Tawny Aluc.

Chouette hulotte,—Brand Kaute.
Aluco stridula, *Wood.*

Passerine Nightling.

Cheveche passerine ;—Kleiner Kauz.
Noctua passerina, *Selby.*

Brown Nightling.

Cheveche brun,—Brand Kauz.
Noctua rumipes, *Wood.*

Garrulus Roller.

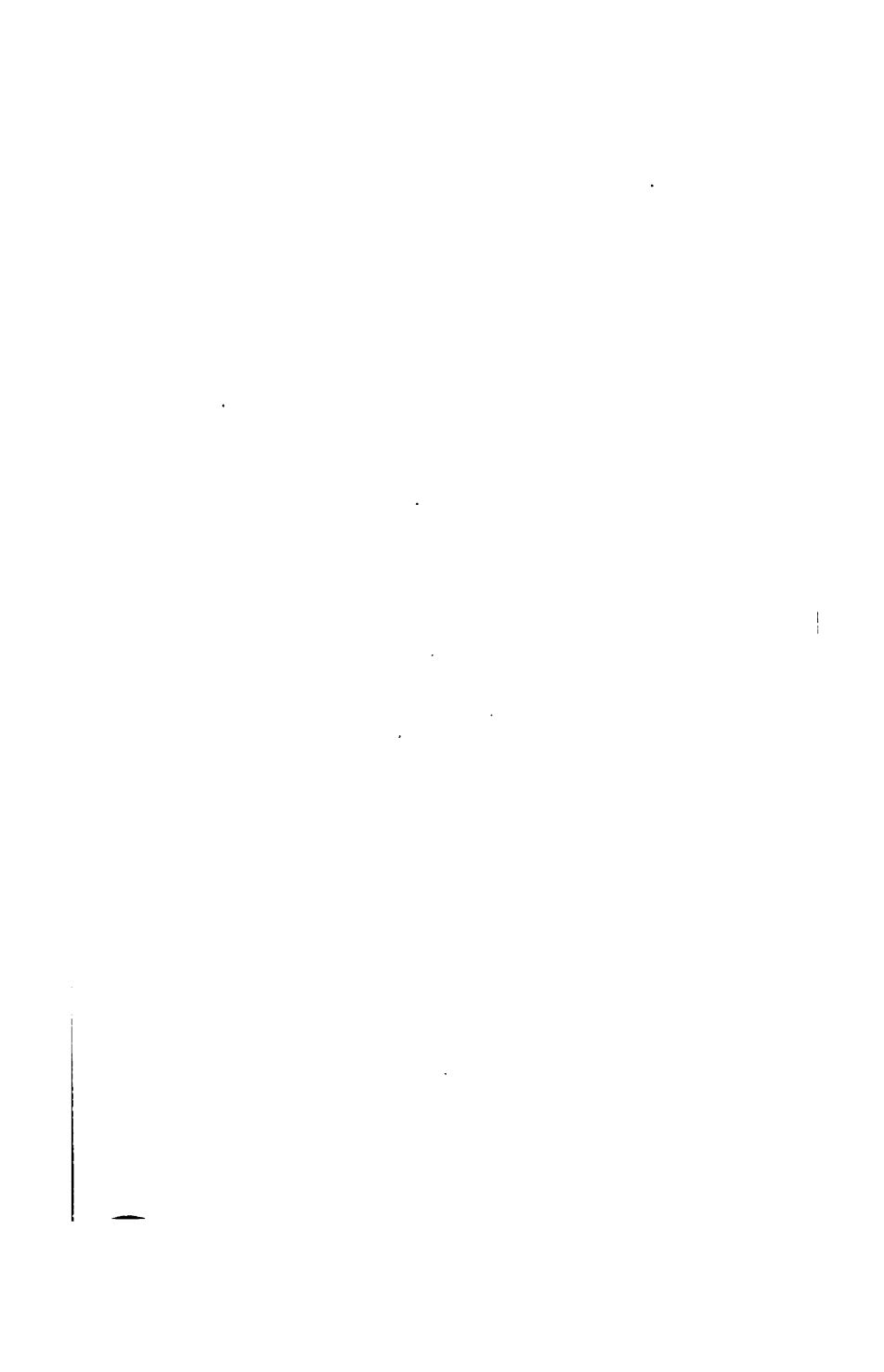
Rollier vulgaire,—Blaue Racke.
Coracias garrula, *Lin.*

Eave Swallow.

Hirondelle defenetre,—Haus Schwalbe.
Hirundo fenestra, *Wood.*

Wall Swift.

Cipsel des murailles,—Mauer T.
Cipselus murarius, *Tem.*



Whitebellied Swift.

Cipsele alpin,—Weissbachiger T.
Cipselus alpinus, *Tenn.*

Minnow Kingfisher.

Baboucard isvide,—Gemeiner Eisevogel.
Alcedo ispida, *Lin.*

Pied Snapper.

Becfigue a tete-noir,—Gemeiner S.
Muscicula luctuosa, *Wood.*

Redbacked Shrike.

Lanier ecorcheur,—Rothrückiger V.
Lanius collurio, *Lin.*

Missel Thrush.

Grive draine,—Mistel Drossel.
Turdus viscivorus, *Will.*

Garden Thrush.

Grive des jardins,—Sing Drossel.
Turdus hortensis, *Wood.*

Mottlebacked Thrush.

Grive ponctuée,—Speck Drossel.
Turdus varius, *Horsf.*

Garden Ouzel.

Merle des jardins,—Schwarzer Merl.
Merula hortensis, *Wood.*

Common Dipper.

Cincle ordinaire,—Gemeiner Sprau.
Cinclus lutans, *Wood.*

Common Wheatear.

Vitre vulgaire,—Gau Steinschmatzer.
Saxicola vulgaris, *Wood.*

Fern Nightjar.

Vocifere ordinaire,—Gemeiner Schreier.
Vociferator melolontha, *Wood.*

Gray Flycatcher.

Gobemouche gris,—Geflecker F.
Muscicapa grisola, *Lin.*

Gray Shrike.

Lanier grise,—Grauer Vurger.
Lanius excubitor, *Lin.*

Wood Shrike.

Lanier rousse,—Rothkopfiger Vurger.
Lanius rufus, *Lin.*

Field Thrush.

Grive litorne,—Wachholder Drossel.
Turdus pilaris, *Will.*

Redwing Thrush.

Grive mauvis,—Roth Drossel.
Turdus iliacus, *Will.*

White's Thrush.

Grive White,—White Drossel.
Turdus Whitii, *Eyton.*

Ring Ouzel.

Merle a plastron-blanc,—Ring Merl.
Merula torquata, *Will.*

Garden Oriol.

Loriot jaune,—Gelber Pirol.
Oriolus galbula, *Lin.*

Whin Chat.

Traquet tavier,—Braunkehliger K.
Rubetra migratoria, *Blyth.*

Stone Chat.

Traquet patre, Schwarz Kohlvogetlohen
Rubetra lapidaria, *Wood*.

Wall Redstart.

Rougequeue de murailles,—Turm R.
Ruticilla luscinia, *Wood*.

Bluethroated Fantail.

Pandicille a gorge-bleu,—Gemeiner W.
Pandicilla cyanecula, *Wood*.

Sedge Reedling.

Verdevolle phragmite,—Rohr Karakiet
Salicaria phragmitis, *Selby*.

Song Nightingale.

Rossignol chante,—Gemeine N.
Filomela luscinia, *Sw*.

Garden Warbler.

Fauvette des jardins,—Graue Sanger.
Ficedula hortensis, *Blyth*.

Garrulus Warbler.

Fauvette babillard,—Klapper Sanger.
Ficedula garrula, *Blyth*.

Hedge Treeling.

Becfin veloce,—Weiden Boumleilein.
Silvia loquax, *Herb*.

Sibilant Treeling.

Becfin siffleur,—Gruner Baumleilein.
Silvia sibilans, *Bechst*.

Goldcrested Kinglet.

Roitelet ordinaire,—Gold Koniglein.
Regulus auricapillus, *Selby*.

Robin Redbreast.

Rougegorge commun,—Gemeines R.
Rubecula familiaris, *Blyth*.

Blackbreasted Redstart.

Rougequeue gris,—Graue R.
Ruticilla nigricollis, *Wood*.

Sibilus Locustel.

Locustelle vulgaire,—Gemeine L.
Locustella sibilans, *Wood*.

Fen Reedling.

Verderolle de roseaux,—Sumf. K.
Salicaria arundinacea, *Selby*.

Blackcap Warbler.

Fauvette a tete-noire,—Schwartzk. S.
Ficedula atricapilla, *Aldr*.

Whitethroated Warbler.

Fauvette grise,—Fahle Sanger.
Ficedula cinerea, *Blyth*.

Redeyed Whinling.

Pittechou de provence,—Gemeine M.
Milezofilus provincialis, *Leach*.

Garden Treeling.

Becfin poillot,—Garten Baumleilein.
Silvia melodia, *Blyth*.

Firecrested Kinglet.

Roitlet triplebandeau,—Feur Koniglein
Regulus ignicapillus, *Mudie*.

Garden Tit.

Mesange charbonniere,—Kohl Meise
Parus hortensis, *Wood*.

Blue Tit.

Mesange bleue,—Blauë Meise.
Parus caeruleus, *Will.*

Crested Tit.

Mesange huppee,—Hauben Meise.
Parus cristatus, *Aldr.*

Bearded Pinnoc.

Moucherolle barbue,—Burt Pinnok.
Calamoflus biarmicus, *Leach.*

Hedge Dunnoc.

Accenteur d'hiver,—Winter Braunelle.
Accentor familiaris, *Wood.*

Gray Wagtail.

Hochequeue jaune,—Gelbe Bachstelze
Motacilla cinerea, *Aldr.*

Spring Oatear.

Bergeronette printanière,—Gelbe C.
Pecula verna, *Wood.*

Meadow Pipit.

Pipit farlouse,—Wiesen Pieper.
Anthus pratensis, *Bechst.*

Tawny Lavroc.

Lavroc gris,—Brand Lavroc.
Coridalla fusca, *Wood.*

Sky Lark.

Alouette des champs,—Feld Lerche.
Alauda arvensis, *Lin.*

Snow Longspur.

Plectrofane de neige,—Schnee P.
Plectrofanus nivalis, *Meyer.* ●

Coal Tit.

Mesange noire,—Tanne Meise.
Parus palustris, *Will.*

Rose Muffin.

Longuequeue ordinaire,—Gemeiner L.
Afedula rosea, *Wood.*

Alpine Annet.

Mouchet des alpes,—Alpen Moschet.
Curruca collaris, *Wood.*

Pied Wagtail.

Hochequeue grise,—Weisse Bachstelze.
Motacilla maculosa, *Wood.*

Grayheaded Oatear.

Bergeronette a tête-grise,—Graue C.
Pecula grisicapilla, *Wood.*

Rock Pipit.

Pipit spioncelle,—Wasser Pieper.
Anthus rupestris, *Nils.*

Tree Pipit.

Pipit des buissons,—Baum Pieper.
Anthus arboreus, *Bechst.*

Hawthorn Waxwing.

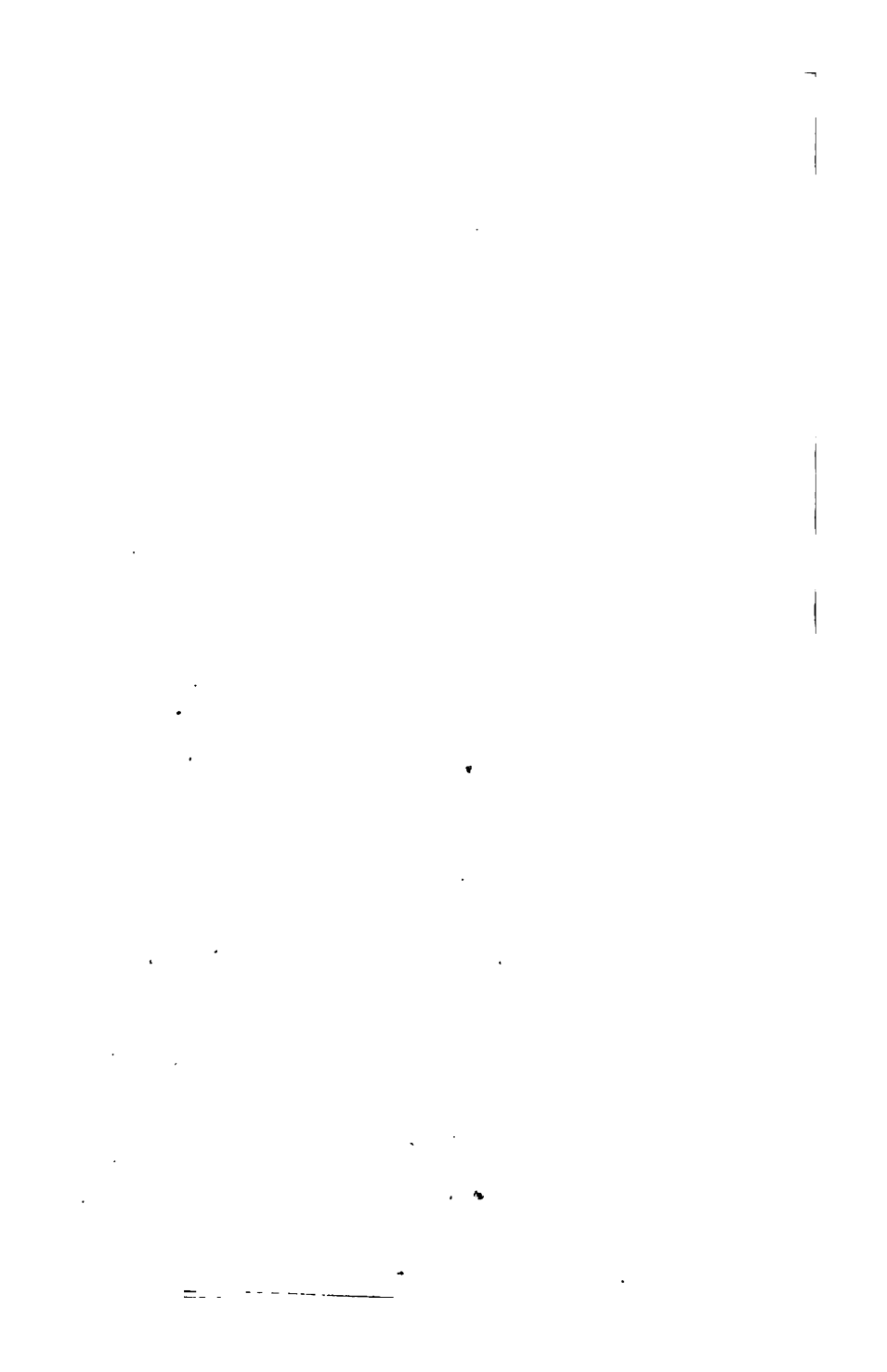
Bombicille ordinaire,—Rothlich S.
Bombicilla crataegus, *Wood.*

Tree Lark.

Alouette lulu,—Baum Lerche.
Alauda arborea, *Lin.*

Rusty Longspur.

Plectrofane montain,—Lercher P.
Plectrofanus mustelina, *Wood.*



Corn Bunting.

Bruant proyer,—Grauer Ammer.
Emberiza miliaria, Lin.

Reed Bunting.

Bruant de roseau,—Rohr Ammer.
Emberiza schæniculus, Lin.

Ortolan Bunting.

Bruant ortolan,—Garten Ammer.
Emberiza hortulana, Lin.

Tree Sparrow.

Moineau fricuet,—Baum Sperling.
Passer arboreus, Blyth.

Bramble Finch.

Pinson montain,—Berg Fink.
Fringilla montana, Will.

Garden Siskin.

Chardonneret ordinaire.—Distel Zeisig.
Carduelis elegans, Stev.

Mountain Linnet.

Linotte montain,—Berg Hanfling.
Linaria montana, Will.

Haw Grosbeak.

Grosbec ordinaire,—Kirschen K.
Coccothraustes crataegus, Blyth.

Pippin Crossbill.

Beccroise commun,—Fichten Kr.
Crucirostra malina, Wood.

Pine Thickbill.

Durbec rouge,—Rother Dickschnabel.
Densirostra enucleator, Wood.

Yellow Bunting.

Bruant jaune,—Gold Ammer.
Emberiza citrinella, Lin.

Cirl Bunting.

Bruant zizi,—Zaum Ammer.
Emberiza cirrus, Lin.

House Sparrow.

Moineau domestique,—Haus Sperling.
Passer domesticus, Aldr.

Chaff Finch.

Pinson ordinaire,—Buch Fink.
Fringilla spiza, Rennie.

Alder Siskin.

Chardonneret tarin,—Gruner Zeisig.
Carduelis spinus, Stev.

Whin Linnet.

Linotte ordinaire,—Garten Hanfling.
Linaria cannabina, Lin.

Redpoll Linnet.

Linotte sezerin,—Blut Hanfling.
Linaria pusilla, Blyth.

Green Grosbeak.

Grosbec verdier,—Gruner Kernbeisser.
Coccothraustes chloris, Flem.

Pine Crossbill,

Beccroise des pins,—Kiefern Kr.
Crucirostra pinetorum, Meyer.

Hedge Coalhood.

Bouvreul commun,—Rothbrustiger G.
Pirula modularis, Wood.



Spotted Starling.

Etourneau commun,—Gemeiner Star.

Sturnus varius, *Meyer*.**Raven Crow.**

Corbeau noir,—Kohl Rabe.

Coryvus corax, *Lin.***Hooded Crow.**

Corbeau mantelee,—Mantel Rabe.

Corvus cuculatus, *Wood*.**Daw Crow.**

Corbeau choucas,—Thurm Rabe.

Corvus monedula, *Lin.***Acorn Jay.**

Geai ordinaire,—Eichel Krahe.

Garrulus glandarius, *Scilby*.**Spotted Nutcracker.**

Cassenois ponctue,—Geflecter N.

Nucifraga punctata, *Wood*.**Black Woodpecker.**

Pic noir,—Schwarzer Specht.

Picus martius, *Lin.***Barred Woodpecker.**

Pic epeiche,—Gras Specht.

Picus virgatus, *Wood*.**Gray Nuthatch.**

Sittelle torchepot,—Grauer Kleiber.

Sitta cæsia, *Meyer*.**Ivy Ren.**

Anorthura ordinaire,—Zaun Anóthure.

Anorthura troglodites, *Morris*.**Rosecolored Amzel.**

Amzel roselin,—Rosenfarbigen A.

Pastor roseus, *Tem.***Carrion Crow.**

Corbeau commun,—Krahen Rabe.

Corvus corone, *Lin.***Rook Crow.**

Corbeau freux,—Saar Rabe.

Corvus frugilegus, *Lin.***Common Pie.**

Pie ordinaire,—Garten Pieke.

Pica varia, *Will.***Rédlegged Chuf.**

Coracias sonneur,—Stein Corac.

Fregilus rufipes, *Wood*.**Common Iaffel.**

Crisoptile commun,—Gemeine Jaffel.

Crisoptilus viridis, *Sw.***Pied Woodpecker.**

Pic varie,—Bunter Specht.

Picus maculosus, *Wood*.**Zigzag Wryneck.**

Torcol ordinaire,—Gemeiner W.

Torquilla vulgaris, *Wood*.**Hazel Creeper.**

Grimpereau ordinaire,—Gemeiner B.

Certhia familiaris, *Lin.***Marsh Hoopoo.**

Huppe commun,—Gebauter. W.

Upupa palustris, *Wood*.



Gray Cuckoo.

Coucou gris,—Aschgrauer Kukuk.
Cuculus canorus, Lin.

Wood Pigeon.

Colombe des bois,—Holz Colombe.
Columba arborea, Wood.

Turtle Dove.

Peristere tourterelle,—Turtel Taube.
Peristera turtur, Boie.

Wood Capercail.

Capricol des bois,—Baum Capercal.
Capricalear arborea, Wood.

Red Tarmigan.

Tarmigan rouge,—Rother Lagopede.
Lagopus Britannicus, Wood.

Rock Tarmigan.

Tarmigan des roches, Stein Tarmigan
Lagopus rupestris, Leach.

Common Redfoot.

Piedrouge commun,—Gemeine R.
Rufipes vulgaris, Wood.

Turnip Bustard.

Outarde barbue,—Grosse Trappe.
Otis tarda, Lin.

Field Azernel.

Cannepetière commun,—Feld Azerne.
Tetrax campestris, Leach.

Purple Hern.

Héron pourpre,—Purpur Reiher.
Ardea purpurea, Lin.

Ring Pigeon.

Colombe ramier,—Ringel Colombe.
Columba torquata, Wood.

Rock Pigeon.

Colombe biset,—Stein Colombe.
Columba livia, Lin.

Migrative Culver.

Culver migratoire,—Wander, C.
Ectopistes migratoria, Sw.

Black Grouse.

Tetros noir,—Schwarzer Tetras.
Tetrax empetrum, Wood.

White Tarmigan.

Tarmigan blanc,—Weisser Lagopede
Lagopus mutus, Leach.

Gray Partridge.

Perdrix grise,—Graue Feldling.
Perdix cinerea, Will.

Common Cwail.

Caille ordinaire,—Gemeine Wachtel.
Coturnix migratoria, Wood.

Cinereus Crane.

Grue cendrée,—Aschgrauer Kranich.
Grus cinerea, Bechst.

Gray Hern.

Héron cendré,—Aschgrauer Reiher.
Ardea cinerea, Lath.

White Hern.

Héron blanc,—Weisser Reiher.
Ardea alba, Lin.



Common Egret.

Egrette commun,—Gemeine Egret.
Egretta garzetta, *Wood*.

Squacco Egret.

Egrette marron,—Rallen Egret.
Egretta pumila, *Wood*.

Freckled Bittern.

Butor ponctué,—Geflechter R.
Botaurus lentigenosus, *Stev*.

Common Nocturn.

Bihoreau manteau-noir,—Gemeiner B.
Maridus luteus, *Wood*.

White Storc.

Cicogne blanche,—Weisser Storch.
Ciconia alba, *Will*.

White Spoonbill.

Spatule blanche,—Weisser Laffer.
Platalea nivea, *Cuv*.

Common Curlew.

Courlis cendré,—Grosser Bracher.
Numenius arquata, *Lin*.

Dusky Sandpiper.

Chevalier arlequin,—Brauner S.
Totanus fuscus, *Leisl*.

Green Sandpiper.

Chevalier culblanc,—Punktier S.
Totanus ocropus, *Tem*.

Common Sandpiper.

Chevalier quineté,—Trillender S.
Totanus hipoleucus, *Tem*.

Buffbacked Egret.

Egrette crabier,—Rusette Egret.
Egretta russata, *Wood*.

Tawny Bittern.

Butor brun,—Gemeiner Rohrdrommel.
Botaurus stellaris, *Stev*.

Rayed Bittern.

Butor roux,—Kleiner Rohrdrommel.
Botaurus striatus, *Bris*.

Yellowheaded Nocturn.

Bihoreau de cayenne,—Gelbkopfige B.
Maridus bahamensis, *Wood*.

Black Storc.

Cicogne noire,—Schwarzer Storch.
Ciconia nigra, *Will*.

Glossy Ibis.

Ibis vert,—Grüner Ibis.
Ibis ignea, *Stev*.

Whimbril Curlew.

Courlis imbril,—Regen Bracher.
Numenius feopus, *Lath*.

Redshank Sandpiper.

Chevalier a pieds-rouges,—Roth. S.
Totanus calidris, *Bechst*.

Wood Sandpiper.

Chevalier silvain,—Wald Strandläufer.
Totanus silvestris, *Wood*.

Spotted Sandpiper.

Chevalier perlé,—Geflechter S.
Totanus macularius, *Tem*.



Greenshank Sandpiper.

Chevalier pieds-verts,—Grünfussiger S.
Totanus griseus, *Wood*.

Blacktailed Godwit.

Barge a queue noire,—Gemeine Barge.
Limosa melanura, *Leisl*.

Brown Longbeak.

Macroramfe punctue,—Roth M.
Longirostra grisea, *Wood*.

Solitary Snipe.

Bécassine solitaire,—Grosse Schnepfe.
Scolopax solitarius, *Wood*.

Common Snipe.

Bécassine ordinaire,—Heer Schnepfe.
Scolopax galinaria, *Gmel*.

Variable Ruf.

Machette variée,—Gemeine Gambette.
Machetes variabilis, *Wood*.

Buffbreasted Dunlin.

Brunette rousse,—Rothe Morinelle.
Tringa rufescens, *Vieil*.

Minute Dunlin.

Brunette echassè,—Hochbeinige M.
Tringa fusca, *Lath*.

Brown Dunlin.

Brunette variable,—Brand Morinelle.
Tringa variabilis, *Meyer*.

Pectoral Dunlin.

Brunette pectoral,—Pectoral Morinelle.
Tringa pectoralis, *Bonap*.

Blackheaded Avoset.

Avosette a nuque-noir,—Blaufussiger S.
Avosetta atricapilla, *Wood*.

Red Godwit.

Barge rousse,—Roth Barge.
Limosa rufa, *Bris*.

Common Woodlet.

Becasse ordinaire,—Gemeiner W.
Rusticola vulgaris, *Wood*.

Fuscus Snipe.

Bécassine brun,—Sabine Schnepfe.
Scolopax fuscus, *Blyth*.

Jack Snipe.

Bécassine sourde,—Moor Schnepfe.
Scolopax pusilla, *Wood*.

Knot Dunlin.

Brunette grise, Gemeine Morinelle.
Tringa canutus, *Lin*.

Dwarf Dunlin.

Brunette temnia,—Kleine Morinelle.
Tringa pusilla, *Wood*.

Glossy Dunlin.

Brunette vidette,—Selniger Morinelle.
Tringa rupestris, *Wood*.

Red Dunlin.

Brunette rouge,—Rothbauchige M.
Tringa rutilus, *Wood*.

Red Falarop.

Falarop cendré,—Rothhalsiger W.
Falaropus hiperboreus, *Lath*.



Gray Falarop.

Falarop gris,—Rothbauchiger W.
Falaropus griseus, *Stev.*

Velvet Rail.

Rale d'Europe,—Gemeine Ralle.
Rallus serica, *Wood.*

Spotted Zapern.

Zapern maronnette,—Punktirtes D.
Zapornia porzana, *Wood.*

Marsh Zapern.

Zapern poussin,—Rohr Dinge.
Zapornia pusilla, *Leach.*

Common Coot.

Macroule ordinaire,—Schwartz M.
Fulica atra, *Lin.*

Collared Turnstone.

Tournepierre a collier,—Gemeine S.
Streptilas interpres, *Leach.*

Collared Pratincol.

Glarole a collier,—Rothfussige P.
Glareola torquata, *Meyer.*

Green Lapwing.

Vanneau vert,—Gehaubter Kieblitz.
Vanellus capella, *Wood.*

Golden Pluver.

Pluvier doré,—Golden Pfeifer.
Pluvialis viridis, *Will.*

Ring Pluver.

Pluvier a collier,—Halsband Pfeifer.
Pluvialis torquatus, *Wood.*

Red Lobefoot.

Lobipede a haussecol,—Rothhalsiger L.
Lobipes rufescens, *Wood.*

Corn Crake.

Crex de genet,—Gemeine Schnarp.
Crex strepera, *Palmer.*

Olivaceous Zapern.

Zapern baillon,—Sumpf Dinge.
Zapornia olivacea, *Wood.*

Common Gallinule.

Gallinule ordinaire,—Grünfussige G.
Gallinula chloropus, *Lath.*

Pied Oystercatcher.

Huitrier varie,—Geschachter A.
Ostralega maculosa, *Wood.*

Common Sanderling.

Sanderling variable,—Gemeiner S.
Arenaria grisea, *Wood.*

Creamcoloured Swiftfoot.

Courvite isabelle,—Isabel Schnellfuss.
Cursorius isabellinus, *Meyer.*

Gray Pluver.

Pluvier gris,—Schwartzbauchiger P.
Pluvialis cinerea, *Will.*

Dotrel Pluver.

Pluvier guignard—Dummer Pfeifer.
Pluvialis morinellus, *Wood.*

Shingle Pluver.

Pluvier de rivage,—Strand Pfeifer.
Pluvialis lapidarius, *Blyth.*



Little Pluver.

Pluvier minime,—Kleiner Pfeifer.

Pluvialis pusillus, *Wood.***Stone Thicknee.**

Edicnemus criard,—Grauer Edicneme.

Edicnemus crepitans, *Tem.***Bean Goose.**

Oie vulgaire,—Saat Gans.

Anser segetum, *Stev.***Whitewinged Bernicle.**

Bernache a ailes blancs,—W. B.

Bernicla leucopsis, *Wood.***Redbreasted Bernicle.**

Bernache a cou-roux,—Rothals B.

Bernicla ruficollis, *Stev.***Pressbilled Swan.**

Cigne a bec-comprime,—E. S.

Cignus refus, *Wood.***Ruddy Sheldrake.**

Tadorne casarc,—Roth Tadorne.

Tadorna viridicapilla, *Wood.***Gadwel Duck.**

Canard chipeau,—Schwatter Ente.

Anas strepera, *Lin.***Common Pintail.**

Dafle commun,—Gemeine Dafle.

Dafila epilobium, *Wood.***Bimaculated Teal.**

Sarcelle bimacule,—Punkiertie Cricke.

Crecca bimaculata, *Wood.***Blackwinged Stilt.**

Echasse a manteau-noir,—Schwartz L.

Himantopus melanopterus, *Meyer.***Gray Goose.**

Oie cendree,—Gemeine Gans.

Anser palustris, *Flem.***Whitefronted Goose.**

Oie rieuse,—Blasse Gans.

Anser albifrons, *Stev.***Brent Bernicle.**

Bernache cravant, Ringel Bernasche.

Bernicla brenta, *Stev.***Whistling Swan.**

Cigne ordinaire,—Sing Schwan.

Cignus clangor, *Wood.***Greenheaded Sheldrake.**

Tadorne ordinaire,—Brand Tadorne.

Tadorna vulpina, *Wood.***Common Shoveller.**

Spatule souchet,—Löffel Spatule.

Spathulea clipeata, *Flem.***Ring Duck.**

Canard ordinaire,—Gemeine Ente.

Anas torquata, *Wood.***Common Teal.**

Sarcelle d'hiver,—Gemeine Cricke.

Crecca vulgaris, *Wood.***Gargany Teal.**

Sarcelle d'ete,—Knak Cricke.

Crecca ciria, *Wood.*



Common Wigeon.

Siffleur ordinaire,—Pfeif Marekke.
Mareca fistularis, *Wood*.

Surf Scoter.

Macreuse marchand,—See Trauer.
Oidemia perspicillata, *Flem*.

King Ider.

Ider a tete-grise.—Konig Eider.
Somateria spectabilis, *Leach*.

Rufus Pochard.

Milouin siffleur,—Kolben Pochard.
Fuligula rufina, *Stev*.

Scaup Pochard.

Milouin mantagnard, Berg Pochard.
Fuligula marila, *Stev*.

Western Pochard.

Milouin d'ouest,—Westlicher Pochard.
Fuligula dispar, *Stev*.

Goldeneyed Garrot.

Garrot ordinaire,—Schneller Garrot.
Clangula bimaculata, *Wood*.

Redbreasted Merganser.

Harle a manteau-noir, L. S.
Mergus serrator, *Lin*.

Pied Smew.

Piette blanche,—Weisse Albelles.
Albellus maculosus, *Wood*.

Horned Grebe.

Grebe cornu,—Gehornter Steissfuss.
Podiceps cornutus, *Lath*.

Black Scoter.

Macreuse noire,—Schwarzer Trauer.
Oidemia nigra, *Flem*.

Downy Ider.

Ider ordinaire,—Gemeines Eider.
Somateria mollissima, *Leach*.

Redheaded Pochard.

Milouin a tete-rouge,—Tafel Pochard.
Fuligula ferina, *Stev*.

Olive Pochard.

Milouin a irisblanc,—Weissangige P.
Fuligula niroca, *Stev*.

Tufted Pochard.

Milouin morillon,—Reiher Pochard.
Fuligula cristata, *Stev*.

Common Hareld.

Hareld de miclon,—Winter Harelde.
Harelda glacialis, *Leach*.

Harlequin Garrot.

Garrot arlequin,—Kragen Garrot.
Clangula histrionica, *Leach*.

Hooded Merganser.

Harle couronne,—Gekronter Sager.
Mergus cuculatus, *Lin*.

Rednecked Grebe.

Grebe jou-gris,—Grautcehliger S.
Podiceps cristatus, *Lath*.

Tippet Grebe.

Grebe gris,—Ohren Steissfuss.
Podiceps cinereus, *Wood*.



Little Grebe.

Grebe de riviere,—Kleiner Steissfuss.
Podiceps pusillus, *Blyth*.

Blackthroated Diver.

Plongeon gorge-noir,—Polar Taucher.
Colimbus arcticus, *Lin*.

Foolish Gillemot.

Gillemot capuchon,—Dumme Lumme.
Uria troile, *Lath*.

Common Rotch.

Mergule nain,—Weisse Rotsche.
Mergulus melanoleucus, *Ray*.

Razorbilled Auc.

Alc macroptere, Tord Alk.
Alca vulgaris, *Wood*.

Black Cormorant.

Cormoran noir,—Schwarzer Cormoran.
Cormoranus carbo, *Mont*.

Greenheaded Merganser.

Harle a tete-vert, Grunkopfige Sager.
Mergus variabilis, *Wood*.

Crested Cormorant.

Cormoran huppe,—Gehaubter C.
Cormoranus cristatus, *Wood*.

Caspian Tern.

Terne de caspia,—Cupische Terne.
Sterna caspia, *Pall*.

Common Tern.

Terne pierregarin,—Gemeine Terne.
Sterna varia, *Wood*.

Northern Diver.

Plongeon imbrim,—Eis Taucher.
Colimbus glacialis, *Lin*.

Redthroated Diver.

Plongeon gorge-rouge,—R. T.
Colimbus septentrionalis, *Lin*.

Black Gillemot.

Gillemot noir,—Schwarze Lumme.
Uria scapularis, *Stev*.

Arctic Penguin.

Pengouin arctique,—Grosse Pengouin.
Penguina arctica, *Wood*.

Common Puffin.

Puffin ordinaire,—Arktischer Puffin.
Puffinus vulgaris, *Wood*.

Green Cormorant.

Cormoran largup,—Gruner Largup.
Cormoranus viridis, *Wood*.

Crested Grebe.

Grebe huppe,—Gehaubter Steissfuss.
Podiceps cristatus, *Lath*.

Solon Gannet.

Sule blanc,—Bassanische Sule.
Sula Bassana, *Bris*.

Sandwich Tern.

Terne sauger,—Sandwicshe Terne.
Sterna striata, *Lath*.

Roseate Tern.

Terne dougal,—Dougalische Terne.
Sterna dougalia, *Mont*.



Arctic Tern.

Terne arctique,—Arktische Terne.

Sterna arctica, *Tem.*

Black Viralv.

Viralv noir,—Schwarze Viralve.

Viralva nigra, *Stev.*

Little Gull.

Mouette pygmee,—Kleine Meve.

Larus minutus, *Pall.*

Laughing Gull.

Mouette rieuse,—Schwarzkopfige M.

Larus ridibundus, *Lin.*

Ivory Gull.

Mouette blanche,—Weisse Meve.

Larus eburneus, *Gmel.*

Glaucus Gull.

Mouette burgermeister,—W. M.

Larus glaucus, *Brun.*

Blackbacked Gull.

Mouette noire,—Mantel Meve.

Larus niger, *Bris.*

Gray Kittiwake.

Risse cendre,—Graue Rissisch.

Rissa cinerea, *Wood.*

Black Tarroc.

Fouquet noir,—Schwarz Tarroc.

Gavia fusca, *Bris.*

Dusky Scua.

Stercoraire obscur,—Dunkle Lestrische.

Lestris obscurus, *Wood.*

Hooded Tern.

Terne cucule,—Kleine Terne.

Sterna minuta, *Lin.*

Marsh Viralv.

Viralv palustre,—Hansel Viralve.

Viralva varia, *Wood.*

Brownheaded Gull.

Mouette a tete-brun,—Brandkopfige M.

Larus capistratus, *Tem.*

Common Gull.

Mouette d'hiver,—Sturm Meve.

Larus canus, *Lin.*

Iceland Gull.

Mouette arctique,—Islandische Meve.

Larus leucopterus, *Bon.*

Herring Gull.

Mouette manteau-gris,—W. M.

Larus argentatus, *Brun.*

Yellowlegged Gull.

Mouette pieds jaunes,—Gelbfussige M.

Larus fuscus, *Lin.*

Collared Zeme.

Zeme noir,—Schwarze Zeme.

Zema collaris, *Leach.*

Brown Scua.

Stercoraire brun,—Braune Lestrische.

Lestris fuscus, *Wood.*

Pomarin Scua.

Stercoraire pomerin,—Felsen I.

Lestris pomarinus, *Tem.*



Arctic Scua.

Stercoraire parasite,—Arctische L.
Lestris parasiticus, *Tem.*

Cinereus Shearwater.

Procellaire grise,—Grauer Procellar.
Procellaria cinerea, *Gmel.*

Sooty Shearwater.

Procellaire noire,—Schwarze Procellar.
Procellaria fuliginosa, *Lin.*

Cravat Goose.

Oie cravant.
Anser canadensis.

Northern Fulmar.

Fulmar gris,—Grauer Fulmar.
Fulmarus glacialis, *Stev.*

Manx Shearwater.

Procellaire cendre,—Moncs Procellar.
Procellaria vulgaris, *Wood.*

Storm Petrel.

Petrel tempete,—Schwarzer Petril.
Thalassidroma pelagica, *Selby.*

Forktailed Petril.

Petrel furcate,—Kleiner Petril.
Thalassidroma furcata, *Wood.*

BIRDS NOT STRICTLY BRITISH.

Common Canary.

Canarie commun,—Gemeine Canarie.
Canaria varia, *Wood.*

Cardinal Garic.

Guavic cardinal,—Cardinale Garic.
Guarica cardinalis, *Sw.*

Whitewinged Crossbill.

Recroisseleucoptere, Weissbindiger K.
Crucirostra leucoptera, *Wilson.*

Yellowbilled Cocizet.

Grallin cendrillard.
Cocizus cinerosus, *Wood.*

Pearl Pintado.

Pindade punctue.
Numida punctata.

Java Grosbeak.

Grosbec a bee-rouge,—Graue K.
Coccothraustes oricivora.

Painted Nonparel.

Nonpareil ordinaire.
Aurella ciris.

Minor Gracle.

Gracle mino.
Gracula religiosa, *Lin.*

Ring Feasant.

Faisan commun,—Gemeine Fasar.
Fasianus colchicus, *Lin.*

Common Fowl.

Galle ordinaire.
Gallus variabilis, *Wood.*



Virginian Colin.

Colin de virginie.

Colina borealis, *Bon.*

Abern.

Abernus, *Wood.*

Ossifrage.

Ossifraga, *Ray.*

Astur.

Astur, *Bechst.*

Falcon.

Falco, *Will.*

Pern.

Pernis, *Cuv.*

Kite.

Milvus, *Will.*

Toadeater.

Bubo, *Will.*

Scops.

Zorca, *Antiq.*

Owl.

Strix, *Will.*

Nightling.

Noctula, *Will.*

Roller.

Coracias, *Lin.*

Swift.

Cipselus, *Illig.*

Musk Carin.

Carin musque.

Carina moscata, *Flem.*

Eagle.

Aquila, *Will.*

Ospray.

Pandion, *Sav.*

Hawk.

Accipiter, *Will.*

Buzard.

Buteo, *Bechst.*

Harrier.

Circus, *Bechst.*

Forktail.

Elanus, *Sav.*

Madj.

Asio, *Will.*

Surn.

Surnia, *Dum.*

Aluc.

Aluco, *Will.*

Beeater.

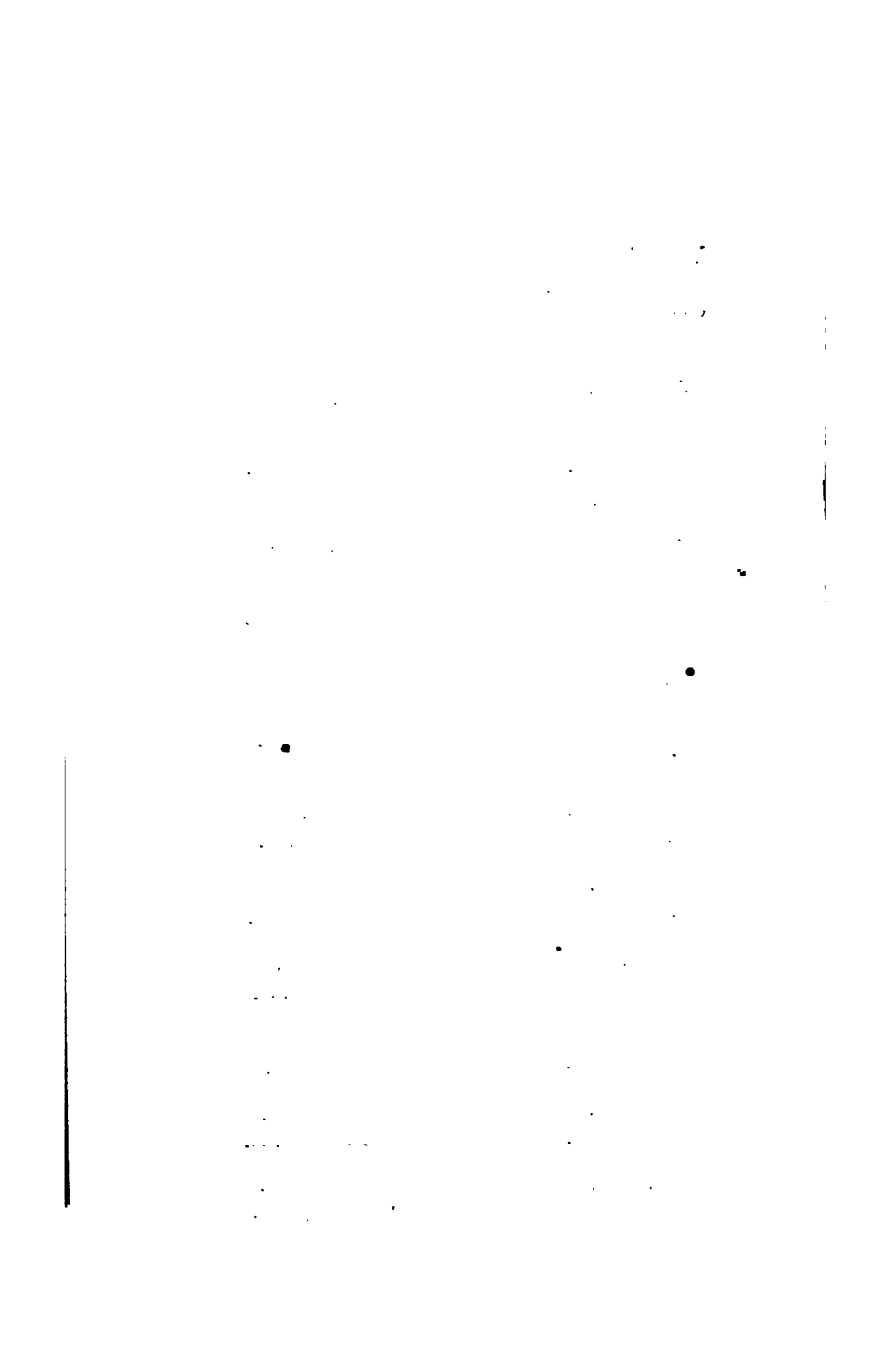
Merops, *Will.*

Swallow.

Hirundo, *Will.*

Nightjar.

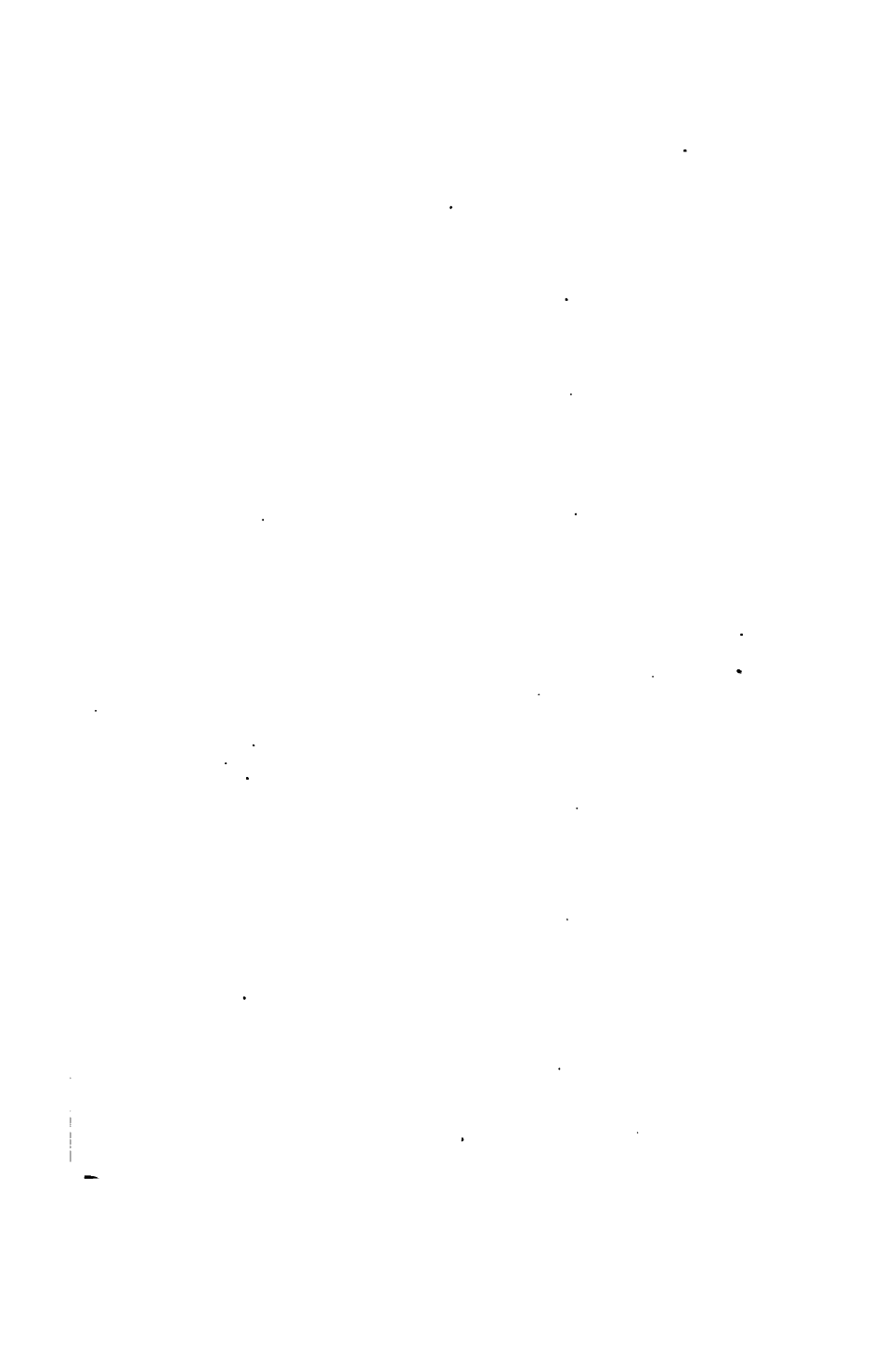
Vociferator, *N. Wood.*



Kingfisher. <i>Alcedo, Lin.</i>	Flycatcher. <i>Muscicapa, Lin.</i>
Snapper. <i>Muscicula.</i>	Shrike. <i>Lanius, Lin.</i>
Thrush. <i>Turdus, Will.</i>	Ouzel. <i>Merula, Will.</i>
Dipper. <i>Cinclus, Bechst.</i>	Oriol. <i>Oriolus, Tem.</i>
Wheatear. <i>Laxicola, Auct.</i>	Chat. <i>Rubetra, Bris.</i>
Redbreast. <i>Rubecula, Will.</i>	Redstart. <i>Ruticilla, Will.</i>
Fantail. <i>Pandicilla, Blyth.</i>	Locustel. <i>Locustella, Will.</i>
Reedling. <i>Salicaria, Selby.</i>	Nightingale. <i>Filomela, Antiq.</i>
Fauvet. <i>Ficedula, Aldr.</i>	Whinling. <i>Melizofilus, Leach.</i>
Treeling. <i>Silvia, Auct.</i>	Kinglet. <i>Regulus, Cuv.</i>
Tit. <i>Parus, Auct.</i>	Mufin. <i>Afedula, Wood.</i>
Pinnoc. <i>Calamofilus, Leach.</i>	Dunnoc. <i>Accentor, Cuv.</i>
Annet. <i>Curruca, Bechst.</i>	Wagtail. <i>Motacilla, Lin.</i>



Oatear.	Pipit.
Budites, <i>Cuv.</i>	Anthus, <i>Bechst.</i>
Lavroc.	Waxwing.
Coridalla, <i>Vlg.</i>	Bombicilla, <i>Bris.</i>
Larc.	Longspur.
Alauda, <i>Lin.</i>	Plectrofanca, <i>Meyer.</i>
Bunting.	Sparrow.
Emberiza, <i>Auct.</i>	Passer, <i>Aldr.</i>
Liskin.	Finch.
Carduelis, <i>Cuv.</i>	Fringilla, <i>Auct.</i>
Linnet.	Grosbeak.
Linaria, <i>Will.</i>	Coccothraustes, <i>Gess.</i>
Crossbill.	Coalhood.
Crucirostra, <i>Meyer.</i>	Pirula, <i>Tem.</i>
Rubret.	Thickbill.
Densirostra, <i>Wood.</i>	Densirostra, <i>Wood.</i>
Starling.	Amzel.
Sturnus, <i>Lin.</i>	Pastor, <i>Sem.</i>
Crow.	Pye.
Corvus, <i>Lin.</i>	Pica, <i>Will.</i>
Jay.	Chuf.
Garrulus, <i>Bris.</i>	Fregilus, <i>Cuv.</i>
Nutcracker.	Woodpecker.
Nucifraga, <i>Will.</i>	Picus, <i>Antig.</i>
Iaffel.	Wryneck.
Crisoptilus, <i>Sw.</i>	Torquilla, <i>Will.</i>



Nuthatch. <i>Sitta, Will.</i>	Creeper. <i>Certhia, Will.</i>
Ren. <i>Anorthura, Rennie.</i>	Hoopoo. <i>Upupa, Antiq.</i>
Cucoo. <i>Cuculus, Will.</i>	Pigeon. <i>Columba, Antiq.</i>
Dove. <i>Peristera, Boic.</i>	Culver. <i>Ectopistes, Sw.</i>
Grouse. <i>Tetrao, Lin.</i>	Capercaill. <i>Capricalca, Nils.</i>
Tarmigan. <i>Lagopus, Vieil.</i>	Partridge. <i>Perdix, Will.</i>
Cwail. <i>Coturnix, Will.</i>	Redfoot. <i>Rufipes, Wood.</i>
Bustard. <i>Otis, Lin.</i>	Azernel. <i>Tetrax, Leach.</i>
Trumpeter. <i>Psafia, Lin.</i>	Crane. <i>Grus, Auct.</i>
Hern. <i>Ardea, Auct.</i>	Egret. <i>Egretta, Lin.</i>
Bittern. <i>Botaurus, Auct.</i>	Nocturn. <i>Maridus, Wood.</i>
Storck. <i>Ciconia, Will.</i>	Ibis. <i>Ibis, Antiq.</i>
Spoonbill. <i>Platalea, Auct.</i>	Curlew. <i>Numenius, Lath.</i>



Avoset.
Avosetta, *Bris.*

Snipe.
Scolopax, *Lin.*

Ruf.
Machetes, *Cuv.*

Falarope.
Falaropus, *Bris.*

Rail.
Rallus, *Auct.*

Zapern.
Zapornia, *Leach.*

Coot.
Fulica, *Lin.*

Turnstone.
Streptilas, *Illig.*

Pratincol.
Glareola, *Bris.*

Lapwing.
Vanellus, *Will.*

Pluver.
Pluvialis, *Will.*

Thicknee.
Edicnemus, *Tcm.*

Bernicle.
Bernicla, *Will.*

Longbeak.
Longirostis, *Wood.*

Rusticol.
Rusticola, *Vieil.*

Dunlin.
Tringa, *Auct.*

Lobefoot.
Lobipes, *Cuv.*

Crake.
Crex, *Bechst.*

Gallinule.
Gallinula, *Will.*

Oystercatcher.
Ostralega, *Bris.*

Sanderling.
Arenula, *Wood.*

Swiftfoot.
Cursorius, *Lath.*

Scwaterol.
Scuatarola, *Cuv.*

Stilt.
Himantopus, *Mey.*

Goose.
Anser, *Will.*

Swan.
Cignus, *Antiq.*



Sheldrake.

Tadorna, Flem.

Gadwel.

Chaulodius, Sw.

Pintail.

Dafila, Leach.

Wigeon.

Mareca, Stev.

Ider.

Somateria, Leach.

Hareld.

Harelda, Leach.

Merganser.

Mergus, Lin.

Grebe.

Podiceps, Lath.

Gillemot.

Uria, Bris.

Penguin.

Penguinia, Wood.

Puffin.

Puffinus, Will.

Gannet.

Sula, Bris.

Viralv.

Viralva, Leach.

Shoveller.

Spathulea, Flem.

Duck.

Anas, Antiq.

Teal.

Crecca, Antiq.

Scoter.

Oidemia, Stev.

Pochard.

Fuligula, Leach.

Garrot.

Clangula, Flem.

Smew.

Albella, Stev.

Dwer.

Colimbus, Lin.

Rotch.

Mergulus, Will.

Auc.

Alca, Lin.

Cormorant.

Cormoranus, Auc.

Tern.

Terna, Lin.

Tarroc.

Gavia, Bris.

Gull.
Larus, Lin.

Scua.
Lestris, Tem.

Shearwater.
Procelaria, Lin.

Zeme.
Zema, Leach.

Fulmar.
Fulmarus, Stev.

Petrel.
Thalassidroma, Vig.

ORDER I.
 PREYERS,—RAPTORES.

ORDER III.
 SCRATCHERS,—RASORES.

ORDER V.
 SWIMMERS,—NATAORES.

ORDER II.
 PERCHERS,—INSESSORES.

ORDER IV.
 WADERS,—GALLATORES.

Eagle-section.
Aquilinæ.

Falcon-section.
Falconinæ.

Kite-section.
Milvinæ.

Thrush-section.
Turdinæ.

Oriol-section.
Oriolanæ.

Nightingale-section.
Filomelinæ.

Hawk-section.
Accipitrinæ.

Buzard-section.
Buteoninæ.

Shrike-section.
Laninæ.

Antcatcher-section.
Miotherinæ.

Chat-section.
Rubetrinæ.

Treeling-section.
Silvianæ.



Tit-section.
Parianæ.

Larc-section.
Alaudinæ.

Coalhood-section.
Pirulinæ.

Swan-section.
Cigninæ.

Pochard-section.
Fuliginæ.

Auc-section.
Alcinæ.

Gull-section.
Larinæ.

Wagtail-section.
Motacillinæ.

Siskin-section.
Carduelinæ.

Goose-section.
Anserinæ.

Duck-section.
Anatinæ.

Merganser-section.
Merginæ.

Gannet-section.
Sulinæ.

Petrel-section.
Thalassidrominæ.

Family I.
 Serpenteater-family,—*Serpentariadæ.*

Family III.
 Falcon-family,—*Falconidæ.*

Family I.
 Beeater-family,—*Meropidæ.*

Family III.
 Nightjar-family,—*Vociferatorinæ.*

Family V.
 Kingfisher-family,—*Alcedonidæ.*

Family II.
 Shrike-family,—*Laniadæ.*

Family II.
 Vulture-family,—*Vulturidæ.*

Family IV.
 Owl-family,—*Strigidæ.*

Family II.
 Swallow-family,—*Hirundinidæ.*

Family IV.
 Trogon-family,—*Trogonidæ.*

Family I.
 Tody-family,—*Todidæ.*

Family III.
 Thrush-family,—*Turdidæ.*



Family IV.

Treeling-family,—Silviadæ.

Family I.

Canary-family,—Canariadæ.

Family III.

Crow-family,—Corvidæ.

Family V.

Musofag-family,—Musofagidæ.

Family II.

Woodpecker-family,—Picidæ.

Family IV.

Cucoo-family,—Cuculidæ.

Family I.

Pigeon-family,—Columbidæ.

Family III.

Grouse-family,—Tetraonidæ.

Family V.

Crax-family,—Cracidæ.

Family II.

Hern-family,—Ardeadæ.

Family IV.

Rail-family,—Rallidæ.

Family I.

Duck-family,—Anatidæ.

Family III.

Auc-family,—Alcadæ.

Family V.

Chatterer-family,—Ampelidæ.

Family II.

Starling-family,—Sturnidæ.

Family IV.

Bucer-family,—Buceridæ.

Family I.

Parrot-family,—Psittacidæ.

Family III.

Creeper-family,—Certhiadæ.

Family V.

Tucan-family,—Tucanidæ.

Family II.

Feasant-family,—Fasianidæ.

Family IV.

Ostrich-family,—Struthionidæ.

Family I.

Crane-family,—Gruidæ.

Family III.

Snipe-family,—Scolopacidæ.

Family V.

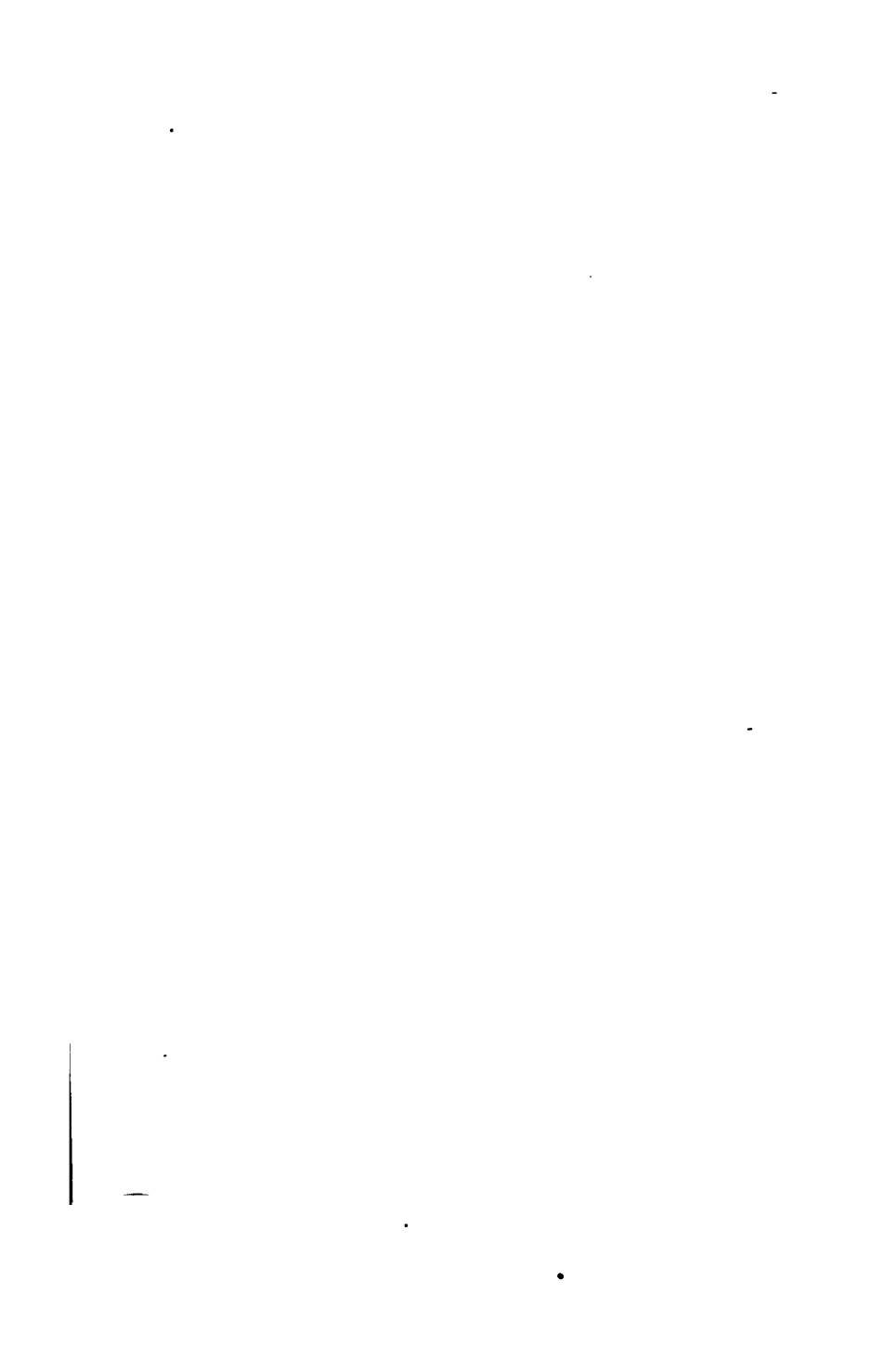
Pluver-family,—Pluvialidæ.

Family II.

Diver-family,—Colimbidæ.

Family IV.

Pelican-family,—Pelicanidæ.



Family V.

Gull-family,—*Laridæ*.

Tribe I.

Bristlebilled-tribe,—*Fissirostres*.

Tribe III.

Archbilled-tribe,—*Conirostres*.

Tribe V.

Thinbilled-tribe,—*Tenuirostres*.

Tribe II.

Toothbilled-tribe,—*Dentirostres*.

Tribe IV.

Pic-billed-tribe,—*Picirostres*.

The principle now so universally adopted in Zoology, of giving uniformity of ending to the names of groups of the same value, has at last, though tardily, been introduced into Botany, by LINDLEY. The Families (these he sometimes calls *Orders*, and sometimes *Tribes*, though for what reason I do not know,) end in *aceæ*, and I will now give a few examples of this improved plan. Like Birds, Plants are divided into Five Orders.

ORDER I.

EXOGENS,—EXOGENCE.

Tribe I.

Manypetaled Tribe,—*Polypetalæ*.

Alliance I.

Ranales.

Family II.

Poppy-family,—*Papaveraceæ*.

Family IV.

Nelumb-family,—*Nelumbiaceæ*.

Group I.

Albuminous-group,—*Albuminosæ*.

Family I.

Buttercup-family,—*Ranunculaceæ*.

Family III.

Nimfule-family,—*Nimfoæceæ*.

Family V.

Cefalot-family,—*Cefalotaceæ*.

Common Traveller's-joy.*Clematis vitalba, Lin.***Common Meadow-rue.***Thalictrum flavum, Lin.***Wood Anemony.***Anemone nemorosa, Lin.***Creeping Buttercup.***Ranunculus repens, Lin.***Common Trolly.***Trollius europæus.***Green Hellebore.***Helleborus viridis, Lin.***Field Larcspur.***Delphinium consolida, Lin.***Common Banery.***Actæa spicata.***Alpine Meadow-rue.***Thalictrum alpinum, Lin.***Autumnal Feasanteye.***Adonis autumnalis, Lin.***Least Mousetail.***Miosurus minimus, Lin.***Bulbous Buttercup.***Ranunculus bulbosus.***Marsh Goldecup.***Cattha palustris, Lin.***Common Columbine.***Aculegia vulgaris, Lin.***Common Moncshood.***Aconitum vulgare.***Common Pœony.***Pœonia corallina.*

INDEX.

	PAGE
American Ornithology, by Alexander Wilson, - - -	101
Analyst, (The) - - - - -	176
Animal Kingdom, by George Cuvier, - - - -	169
Architecture of Birds, by James Rennie, - - -	157
Atlas of European Birds, by Werner, - - - -	161
Atkinson (George) Compendium of the Ornithology of Britain, - - - - -	142
Audubon (John James) Ornithological Biography of America,	136
Bechstein (John Matthew) Cage Birds, - - - -	102
Bewick (Thomas) History of British Birds, - - -	91
Birds of America, by J. J. Audubon, - - - -	138
Birds of Britain, by William Lewin, - - - -	94
Birds of Scotland, by Graham, - - - - -	142
Boitard, Birds of Europe, - - - - -	160
Bolton (James) Harmonia Ruralis, - - - - -	97
Bonaparte (Charles) Iconografia italica, - - -	162
Book of the Seasons, by William Howit, - - -	156
British Naturalist, by Robert Mudie, - - - -	118
British Oology, by W. C. Hewitson, - - - -	130
British Ornithology, by P. J. Selby, - - - -	107
British Songsters, by N. Wood, - - - - -	167
British Warblers, by R. Sweet, - - - - -	132
British Zoology, by Thomas Pennant, - - - -	86
Brown, (Thomas) Animal Kingdom, - - - - -	169
----- Natural History of Parrots, - - - -	151
Cage Birds, by J. M. Bechstein, - - - - -	102
Colibree-family, by William Jardine, - - - -	157
Compendium of the Ornithology of Britain, by George Atkinson,	142
Compendium of Zoology, - - - - -	148
Cuvier (George) Animal Kingdom, - - - - -	169
Cyclopedia of Natural History, edited by Charles Partington,	170

INDEX.

	PAGE
Drummond (James) Letters to a Young Naturalist, -	128
Edwards (George) History of Uncommon Birds, - -	85
Elements of Natural History, - - - -	151
Encyclopedia of Geography, - - - -	140
Eyton (T. C.) Rarer British Birds, - - - -	166
Faculties of Birds, by James Rennie, - - - -	157
Fauna Boreali Americana, by W. Swainson - - - -	139
Fauna Orcadensis, by George Low, - - - -	156
Feathered Tribes of Britain, by R. Mudie, - - - -	152
Field Naturalist's Magazine, edited by James Rennie, -	173
Fleming (John) History of British Animals, - -	129
General Ornithology, by Francis Willughby, - -	79
General Zoology, by George Shaw, - - - -	99
Geography and Classification of Animals, by W. Swainson,	159
Gleanings in Natural History, by E. Jesse, - - - -	113
Goldsmith (Oliver) Animated Nature, - - - -	87
Gould (John) Birds of Europe, - - - -	134
Grouse-family, by William Jardine, - - - -	157
Graham, Birds of Scotland, - - - -	142
Habits of Birds, by James Rennie, - - - -	157
Harmonia Ruralis, by James Bolton, - - - -	97
Hewitson (W. C.) British Oology, - - - -	130
History of Animated Nature, by Oliver Goldsmith, -	87
History of British Animals, by J. Fleming, - - - -	129
Holl (William) The Analyst, (Editor of) - - - -	176
Howit (William) Book of the Seasons, - - - -	156
Iconografia italica, by C. Bonaparte, - - - -	162
Illustrations of British Ornithology, by P. J. Selby, -	108
Jardine (William) Colibree-family (<i>Colubridæ</i>) - -	157
----- Grouse-family (<i>Tetraonidæ</i>) - -	157
----- Pavo-family (<i>Pavonidæ</i>) - -	158
----- Pigeon-family (<i>Columbidæ</i>) - -	158
----- Journal of Zoology and Botany, - -	174
Jennings (James) Ornithologia, a Poem, - - - -	143
Jenyns (Leonard) Manual of British Vertebrated Animals,	149
Jesse (Edward) Gleanings in Natural History, - -	113
Journal of a Naturalist, by Knapp, - - - -	113

INDEX.

	PAGE
Knapp, Journal of a Naturalist, - - - - -	113
Letters to a Young Naturalist, by J. Drummond, - -	128
Lewin (W.) Birds of Britain, - - - - -	94
Loudon (T. C.) Magazine of Natural History, - -	173
Low (George) Fauna Orcadensis, - - - - -	156
Macgillivray (W.) Rapacious Birds of Britain, - -	162
Manual of American Ornithology, by T. Nuttall, - -	158
Manual of British Vertebrated Animals, by L. Jenyns, -	149
Magazine of Natural History, edited by T. C. Loudon, -	173
Magazine of Zoology and Botany, edited by William Jardine,	174
Mavor; Elements of Natural History, - - - - -	161
Montagu, Ornithological Dictionary of Britain, - -	98
Mudie, Feathered Tribes of Britain, - - - - -	152
—— British Naturalist, - - - - -	118
—— Natural History of Birds, - - - - -	146
—— Popular Guide to Nature, - - - - -	145
Natural History of Birds, by Robert Mudie, - - -	146
Natural History of Selborn, by Gilbert White, - -	89
Natural History of Uncommon Birds, by George Edwards,	85
Naturalist's Library, by Jardine, - - - - -	167
Nauman, Natural History of German Birds, - - -	160
N. Wood, British Songsters, - - - - -	167
Nilson, Scandinavian Fauna, - - - - -	161
Nuttall, (Thomas) Manual of American Ornithology, -	158
Partington, (C. F.) Cyclopedia of Natural History, (editor of)	170
Pavo-family, by W. Jardine, - - - - -	157
Pennant, (Thomas) British Zoology, - - - - -	87
Pigeon-family, by W. Jardine, - - - - -	157
Popular Guide to Nature, by R. Mudie, - - - - -	145
Preliminary Discourse on Natural History, by W. Swainson,	159
Rapacious Birds (Preyers) of Britain, by W. Macgillivray,	162
Rarer British Birds, by T. C. Eyton, - - - - -	166
Rennie, Field Naturalist's Magazine, (Editor of) - -	173
Roux (R.,) Ornithologie Provencale, - - - - -	161
Savi, (P.,) Ornithologia Toscana, - - - - -	161
Selby, (P. J.,) British Ornithology, - - - - -	107
—— Illustrations of British Ornithology, -	108

INDEX.

	PAGE
Shaw, (George) General Zoology, - - - -	99
Slaney, (Robert) Outlines of British Birds, - - -	144
Stevens, (J. F.) Shaw's General Zoology, - - -	99
Swainson (W.) Fauna boreali Americana, - - -	139
----- Preliminary Discourse on Natural History,	159
----- On the Geography and Classification of	
Animals, - - - - -	159
----- Treatise on Mammalogy, - - - -	159
Sweet, (R.) British Warblers, - - - -	132
Syme, (Patric) Treatise on British Song-Birds, - -	110
Treatise on Mammalogy, by W. Swainson, - - -	159
Treatise on British Song-Birds, - - - -	110
Wanderings in America, by Charles Waterton, - -	112
Waterton, (Charles) Wanderings in America and Columbia,	112
Werner, Atlas of European Birds, - - - -	161
White, (Gilbert) Natural History of Selborn, - -	89
Willughby, (Francis) General Zoology, - - -	79
Wilson, (Alexander) American Ornithology, - - -	101
Zoological Journal, by N. A. Vigors, - - - -	172
Zotologist's Text-Book, - - - -	144

FINIS.

